“Creating a Conducive Policy Environment for a Food Secure SADC”

THE JOHANNESBURG 2005 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

4-7 October 2005, Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa

A REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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SECTION 1

BACKGROUND TO THE DIALOGUE

I. INTRODUCTION

Background

Food is the most basic necessity for all human beings. Providing sufficient food of adequate nutritional quality for everyone, in Africa and the world at large, should be the prime development objective of every government. Unfortunately, most African governments did not see food security and food self-sufficiency as their most fundamental development goal. After decades of political independence, hunger and malnutrition remain persistent problems in many African countries.

In the SADC region, over 200 million people are faced with food insecurity challenges. Agriculture is still recognised as the prime driver of economic development across the region, but agricultural investments by governments in the region have remained low. Agricultural yields for crops and livestock have been declining. Food aid and food imports have almost doubled in the last 10 years. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, natural disasters and civil conflicts have further compromised the region's efforts to ensure food security.It is against this background that the SADC Ministers of Agriculture recommended the formation of an autonomous Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) in 1994 with the main objective of providing synthesised, evidence-based recommendations for the development of comprehensive agricultural policies in the SADC region that would reduce poverty and increase food security for the majority. FANRPAN was viewed as the entity that would synthesise and provide independent evidence-based policy recommendations for invigorating regional trade through the exploitation of the economics of scale. FANRPAN was mandated to be an information switchboard – a centre of excellence for disseminating state-of-the-art policy information across member states that would stimulate policy and legal reform for transforming the FANR sector.

The FANRPAN mission and mandate has, thus, been to coordinate and facilitate public policy research and analysis, as well as, organise multi-stakeholder dialogues at the national, regional and global levels in order to influence policy development in the food, agriculture and natural resources sector and turn it into a true engine for growth and economic development in the region. In pursuit of this mission and mandate, FARNPAN's core business has been to carry out specialised studies in selected areas, isolate critical findings and policy recommendations, and then organise regional policy dialogue events, fora and platforms for dissemination to a critical mass of stakeholders that are capable of stimulating positive change in their respective circles of influence.

It is against this background that FARNPAN, in collaboration with several partners, organised its first high level regional policy dialogue in Gaborone, Botswana from the 26-27 March 2003, to discuss the region's agricultural recovery, food security and trade policies. This roundtable brought together leading stakeholders in the sector including: policy makers from governments in the region, international key note speakers on the subject matter, partner agencies including CTA, IFPRI, USAID, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, ISNAR, ODI, MSU, NEPAD, ADB, SACAU, SAPRN, farmer organisations and civil society. This was a remarkable opportunity to reflect and dialogue on food policy right at the peak 2002-2003 food crisis in the region.

In 2004, a similar event was held in Plain Magnein, Mauritius, from 28-30 March 2004 to discuss policy strategies needed to promote permanent agricultural recovery and

productivity growth in the SADC region. Again leading stakeholders in the sector came together to review and reflect on strategies discussed in 2003, as well as, chart a way forward for the region. The key policy issues discussed at this dialogue included: assessment of the 2004 food supply situation and key policies affecting agricultural recovery in the SADC region; the formulation of bankable actions and investment projects for the agricultural sector in the SADC region; the role and challenges faced by senior policy makers in formulating policy research into action; cassava as the new hope for food security and poverty alleviation in Southern Africa; improved maize marketing and trade policies to promote household food security in Southern Africa; The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); ICRISAT strategies contributing to agricultural policy in the SADC region - Advances towards harmonisation of seed policies and regulations; Developing a workable agricultural biotechnology policy for SADC; and the shortage of improved seed limiting the commercialisation of the smallholder farming sector - experiences from the IDEA regional programme in Southern Africa.

The 2005 annual dialogue was a follow up to the two previous dialogues and was held under the umbrella theme of "creating a conducive policy environment for a food secure SADC". The Johannesburg 2005 multi-stakeholder dialogue was held from the 4 – 7 October 2005 at the Birchwood hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Objectives

The objectives of the 2005 dialogue were 4-fold:

1) Strengthening the institutional capacity for supporting FANR policy formulation and implementation in the SADC region – through stronger advocacy by farmer organisations and the use of CSO evidence in developing pro-poor policies for food security
2) Developing strategies for improving knowledge management systems in SADC and disseminating FANRPAN research outputs
3) Developing stronger and strategic institutional alliances and partnerships that would ensure the enhanced use of research outputs in the development of effective regional agricultural policies
4) Strengthening the FANRPAN annual multi-stakeholder public policy dialogue platform and concept - as a forum for independent public policy debate and influence by a cross-section stakeholders in the FANR sector

The biggest challenge common to both researchers and policy makers alike is the operationisation and implementation of the findings and policy recommendations. It was the objective of the 2005 dialogue to ensure that the delegates discuss and agree on key strategies for moving from evidence to action through strengthening strategic and institutional alliances, at both national and regional level, for effective policy development and implementation.

The main driver of regional FANR policy is SADC. SADC is a regional forum established by SADC member states to allow for inter-governmental regional policy dialogue. The dialogue at SADC level is, therefore, government-driven and policy decisions are arrived at through inter-governmental processes often led by government technocrats, sectoral ministers and Heads of state. These processes leave little room for stakeholders outside the public sector to influence policy decisions at the regional level. This is where the multi-stakeholder FANRPAN platform plays a critical role to play. The previous annual dialogues and the 2005 dialogue are great opportunities for interaction between senior government policy makers and other stakeholders in the FANR sector. These dialogues are a great opportunity for mutual interaction and advocacy and there is good chance that policy recommendations arrived at through such mutual dialogues would find their way into national policies.

The Johannesburg 2005 dialogue was a dialogue with a difference. It shifted away from the traditional design of dialoguing around a single policy theme and instead focused on a full display - a grand showcase - of all FANRPAN policy research outputs and outcomes over 2004-05 period under 4 pillars of: Markets and Trade; HIV and AIDS; Strengthening Institutional Capacity; and Knowledge Management Systems. This approach was aimed at sharing with all stakeholders and partners the vast knowledge and information base established by FANRPAN so far and to emphasise the need to move a step forward into developing strong policy knowledge and information management systems across the region – that will move this knowledge and information into the policy realm.

The Dialogue Pillars

1. Markets and Trade

The main thrust of this pillar was to discuss how policy could be transformed to make markets work for smallholder farmers in the SADC region. The smallholder farmers constitute 70% of the agricultural labour force in the SADC region. Paradoxically, it is these same farmers that are the threatened by hunger, poverty and disease. Policy is often a direct reflection of political priorities and interests. The dialogue was an opportunity to lay strategies and design ways in which markets can be made to work for the poor. The discussions were based several FARNPAN studies carried out in 2004-05 including: Improved maize marketing in SADC; Harmonisation of seed regulations, Biosafety Systems and biotechnology in the region; multi-stakeholder biotechnology policy dialogues in partnership with IFPRI; and contract farming in Sub-Saharan Africa The dialogue was an opportunity to share the finding and recommendations from these studies with key stakeholders. It was also an opportunity for FANRPAN and IFPRI to launch their joint publication on the multi-stakeholder dialogue process they have been conducting on Biotechnology in Africa.

2. The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture

This pillar was based on the premise that HIV and AIDS was sighted a contributing factor in declaring an emergency food situation in Lesotho and Swaziland. Other scholars suggest that the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security is causing a "silent famine" in households – what others descried as the "new variant famine". Discussions on this pillar were based on a two-year FANRPAN study funded by the EU that has been carried out across 7 SADC countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This study is one of the components of the overall SADC-EU HIV and AIDS project. Study findings and policy recommendations from the seven countries were discussed at the dialogue.

3. Strengthening Institutional Capacity

The thrust of this pillar was strengthening institutional capacity for regional policy engagement and development at mainly three levels: Farmer Organisations (FO), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and FANRPAN country platforms – the nodes. The dialogue was an opportunity to explore strategies for strengthening farmer organisations, strengthening private sector organisations involved in FANR policy processes, strengthening civil society organisations for regional level engagement, and strengthening analytical capacity – especially policy analysis. The findings and recommendations of FANRPAN studies being undertaken in collaboration with CTA, SACAU, SAPRN, ODI and SAKSS were discussed at the dialogue.

4. Knowledge Management Systems

The main thrust of this pillar was moving from research to policy by maintaining a strategic balance between the supply and demand of knowledge and information. This was an underlying and crosscutting theme in all the discussions of the dialogue. Knowledge management was discussed as involving organizational adaptation through processes combining data, information processing and the creative and innovative capacity of human beings. It was discussed as a concept; as a business discipline and theory; as a collection of technologies; and as a philosophy. The theory, practice and processes behind the Strategic Analysis and Agricultural Knowledge Systems (SAAKS) project being implemented in partnership by FANRPAN, IWMI and ICRISAT was discussed. The role of knowledge in sustainable development was discussed. The factors of demand for knowledge within the development context were discussed. The supply-demand paradigm was discussed. The contributions of analytical and strategic contexts to planning were discussed.

The Structure Of The Dialogue

The dialogue took the form of plenary sessions in the mornings addressed by keynote speakers on the sub-themes for the day. Debate would then be opened up for input by the delegates in plenary and thereafter further debate and dialogue was breakaway parallel sessions based on 3 pillars: Markets and Trade; HIV and AIDS; and Strengthening Institutional Capacity. The fourth pillar of knowledge management was only discussed in plenary. Emerging recommendations from the parallel sessions were fed back to the plenary for the benefit of delegates in the different sessions. The IFPRI/FANRPAN joint publication: *Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food Security in Southern Africa,* edited by Omamo S.W and Grebmer K. was launched during one of the evening sessions.

The Dialogue Delegates

The 2005 dialogue was targeted at top-level executives in the private and corporate sector; top-level government policy makers – Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Directors in FANR ministries across SADC; top-level leadership and technical advisers from Farmer Organisations in all SADC countries; top-level policy analysts from at least one University in each SADC country. All FANRPAN partners agencies including; CTA, IFPRI, USAID, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, ISNAR, ODI, MSU, NEPAD, ADB, SACAU, SAPRN, FAO, Rockefeller Foundation, French Government representatives; farmer organisations and civil society were invited. Development partners including donors, CGIAR and other high-level research institutions were also invited. Regional organisations – SADC, COMESA and NEPAD were invited for the dialogue. A total of 100 delegates were expected at the 3-day dialogue.

A total of 108 experts in the food, agriculture and natural resources sector (FANR) consisting of 2 permanent secretaries, 12 senior government policy makers, 23 policy analysts from regional and international universities, 22 representatives of national and regional level civil society organizations, 7 corporate sector representatives, 10 regional and international consultants, 5 CGIAR centre representatives, 10 farmers and farmer organizations, 2 representatives of the SADC regional secretariat, 3 international donor organizations, 1 NEPAD secretariat representative, 1 representative of the FAO sub-regional office, 8 social research institutions, 1 biotechnology research institution, and 1 independent international research institution; turned for the 2005 Dialogue.

Key Outputs

1. The Conference Declaration

The main output was a conference declaration – a joint statement of conference resolutions by the delegates. The delegates noted that the dialogue was a great

opportunity to engage with the realities on food security in the SADC region. They pointed out that the severe humanitarian crisis in the region demanded truth and honesty. They noted that the triple threat of poverty, HIV & AIDS and food insecurity challenges governments, donors and non-public humanitarian and development agencies to respond promptly to avert prevailing hunger, disease and death across the region. The delegates observed that collective efforts in agricultural and rural development have, so far, fallen short of the appropriate response to community needs. They noted that at the heart of these failures, is the continued inability to implement appropriate policies and enable functional institutions to marshal resources in ways that optimise services, nutrition, and care for vulnerable communities.

The delegates urged regional institutions and national governments to take greater responsibility for enhancing food security in SADC through the provision of a conducive policy environment. The delegates called upon governments to take initiative to facilitate more open and readily transactible trade and market development for food products and inputs in the region. They called upon governments to strengthen knowledge management on regional trade, marketing and regional development. They committed themselves to continue providing evidence-based information on the pros and cons of GMOs and to further develop the concept of contract farming.

The delegates noted that the HIV and AIDS pandemic is truly causing a "silent famine" in the smallholder households in the SADC region. They pointed that out FANRPAN should use the current seven country studies as a benchmark for a wider regional longitudinal study to track the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security over a longer period. They noted that the overall impact on households is increased vulnerability and asked FANRPAN to further develop the Household Vulnerability Index (HVI), discussed at the dialogue, as a tool for quantifying the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security that will help governments to better design agricultural interventions for affected households. The delegates called for increased government involvement in the design of new and innovative HIV and AIDS related agricultural programmes and interventions for affected households and communities.

The delegates noted the urgent the urgent need to strengthen agricultural policy analysis and advocacy skills at regional and national levels. They pointed out the urgent need for lead initiatives and programmes to empower farmer organisations across the region. The delegates pledged to further develop and strengthen the multi-stakeholder platform for policy engagement with government policy makers, policy analysts, farmer organisations and the private sector at both national and regional levels.

The joint statement was expected to serve as a tool for sharing the deliberations and resolutions of the dialogue with a wider audience. It will also be forwarded to media houses as a press release.

2. Joint IFPRI-FANRPAN Publication Launched

The joint publication cited as: Steven Were Omamo and Klaus von Grebmer, eds, Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food Security in Southern Africa, Washington, DC, and Harare: IFPRI and FANRPAN, 2005 – was successfully launched at the dialogue. Copies of this book were distributed to all delegates. The joint publication was an affirmation of the positive synergy available in collaborative programmes and research linking CGIAR centres with research networks in the region.

3. FANRPAN Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue Forum Strengthened

The convergence of a total of 108 high level experts from all sectors in the food, agriculture and natural resources sector (FANR) to debate outstanding issues in agricultural markets and trade in the SADC region, the impact of HIV and AIDS on

agriculture and food security in the region, and the strengthening of institutional capacity for agricultural policy development and implementation in the region – was clear evidence of the importance of such an independent forum in the region. All stakeholders debated with respect of one another – with no blame game. This is was the basis for a joint output reflecting a multi-stakeholder view of the situation.

4. Institutional Alliances Strengthened

The dialogue brought top-level executives in the private and corporate sector; top-level government policy makers – Permanent Secretaries and Directors in FANR ministries across SADC; top-level leadership and technical advisers from Farmer Organisations in all SADC countries; top-level policy analysts from at least universities in the region, FANRPAN partners agencies including CTA, IFPRI, USAID, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, ISNAR, ODI, MSU, NEPAD, ADB, SACAU, SAPRN, FAO, Rockefeller Foundation, the French Government and farmer organisations. 22 civil society organisations were also in attendance. Development partners including donors, CGIAR and other high-level research institutions also attended. Regional organisations – SADC and NEPAD also attended the dialogue. FANRPAN has signed MOUs with most these institutions. This was an excellent recipe for strengthened partnerships. Each of these partners was assigned specific tasks at the dialogue. The outcome was a joint effort – a manifestation of strengthened relationships.

5. A Strengthened FANR Knowledge and Information Management Network

In pursuit of the theme to "create an conducive policy environment for a food secure SADC" – the individual delegates at the dialogue represented an expert knowledge and information bank of sorts that will continue to be linked and strengthened through FANRPAN. The theory and practice of knowledge management was discussed as a basis for moving from research to policy actions. These concepts are the basis of the SAKSS project that has been designed to be permanent link between all institutions in the region generating agriculture related knowledge and information. The Southern Africa Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS) project is envisaged to be the focal point in converting and moving knowledge into the policy realm. SAKSS was shared with all the delegates. SAKSS will host a regional agricultural database populated with data sets from the various knowledge-generating partners in the region. Policy briefs based on this data will be generated and shared with policy makers at the highest level. The SAKSS database is envisaged to serve as a regional central data bank or herb with links to other relevant databases.

II. KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Opening Remarks and Overview of the Department of Agriculture – South Africa: *By the Deputy Director General – Agricultural Production and Resource Management*

The DDG outlined the components of the strategic planning cycle that leads to the selection departmental priority areas and the design of departmental programmes and implementation systems. The first level is the cabinet priority setting processes. These are followed by the state of the nation address by the Head of State, which elaborates the government programme of work. This is then followed by sector needs assessment through a client survey. The Intergovernmental technical Committee on Agriculture then aligns the sector needs with the government programme of work to reach an agreement on key priorities and programmes for the department.

These priorities and programmes are then taken through an engagement process with other public entities to ensure alignment with government priorities. An engagement

process with the Minister and Deputy Minister on strategic imperatives for the department then follows. The Departmental Management Committee, through Quarterly Review Meetings, then engagements with the content to extract key agricultural result areas, strategic objectives, programmes and measurable indicators, as well as, to ensuring alignment across departmental programmes and the designing of optimal implementation systems. Strategic planning is cascaded within the entire department to ensure the development of directorate level operational plans, and individual performance agreements that support the departmental goals.

The medium term strategic priorities are derived from the microeconomic reform strategy where agriculture is defined as a target sector in the light of its potential for growth, labour absorption and links to the manufacturing sector. These medium term strategies are influenced by the imperatives for addressing the consequences of social transition, and specifically, the second economy challenges - through land and agrarian reform, integrated food and nutrition security and integrated and sustainable rural development; the international environment with respect to the need for sustainable development; reform of world trade; and implementing NEPAD.

The agricultural policy environment takes into consideration the possible implications of the scenario planning, the ten year review, the cabinet level analysis and priority setting processes, the agricultural sector plan [November 2001], and vision 2014 of a single integrated economy. Key Challenges include the successful increase in equity and agricultural land use with respect to land reform; ensuring continuing contribution of agriculture to economic growth, poverty reduction and remunerative job opportunities; establishing and sustaining agricultural sector competitive edge.

Agriculture tops the list of priority sectors in the microeconomic reform strategy. Other priority sectors include tourism, culture, ICTs, mining and metals, clothing and textiles, chemicals and biotech, auto and transport, and services. The crosscutting interventions in this strategy include: human resource development, technology, research and development, infrastructure, geographic spread, and small enterprises. Key input sectors for operationalising this strategy will include: transport, energy, telecommunications and water. The two underlying strategies for the successful implementation of this reform agenda are: building the institutional capacity to implement action plans; and the proper sequencing of actions. The key performance indicators will be increase in economic growth and equity, and a rise in employment opportunities.

The Agricultural Sector Plan (2001) is based on a common vision for – “a united and prosperous agricultural sector” with three mutually reinforcing strategic objectives: enhancing equitable access and participation in the sector; improving global competitiveness and enterprise profitability; and ensuring sustainable resource use and management.

Land and agrarian reform is being implemented under the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP). The programmes involves several strategic programmes including: the integrated food security and nutrition programme – which has two components – one on household food production programmes and the other a restitution and tenure reform programme where agricultural land is involved. CASP also includes a programme for land redistribution especially for agricultural development. It also has a water resources management programme. CASP also has a programme for viable farming enterprises, which include the development of agro-processing industries and agro-tourism.

The Mission of the department of Agriculture (DoA) is to lead and support sustainable agriculture and rural development through: ensuring access to sufficient safe and nutritious food; eliminating skewed participation and inequity in the sector; maximizing

growth, employment and income in the agriculture sector; enhancing the sustainable management of natural agricultural resources and ecological systems; ensuring efficient and effective governance; and ensuring knowledge and information management. The core values of the DoA that drive this mission are: Bambanani, Drive, Excellence, Innovation, Integrity, and "Maak 'n Plan". The main clientele are: the provincial departments of Agriculture; public entities working in the agricultural sector; consumers, exporters, and producers of agricultural products; as well as international organisations working in agriculture.

The current key products and services of the DoA are: national leadership [in terms of policy, legislation, setting of strategic priorities, advice, norms and standards, providing information, monitoring and evaluation, supervision and reporting; national regulatory services with respect to national legislation, regulations, controls, auditing services and inspection services; national coordination services [facilitating provincial, public entities coordination, international agreements; professional networks; public private, community partnerships]; agricultural human resources development.

Strategic priorities for the next 5 yrs include: implementation of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme; Implementation of the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme; implementation of the Agricultural Broad based Black Economic Empowerment Programme; implementation of the African Agricultural Development Programme; Improving Knowledge and Information Management Systems; Research and Development and Technology Transfer; Improving National Regulatory Systems; Natural Resources Management Focus. The main focus is a "comprehensive response" that will transform the entire sector. Various interventions have been designed for each result area.

The Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme is targeted at ensuring access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to all. The Agri-business and Agro-processing programme is targeted at eliminating the skewed participation in the sector. The agricultural sector strategy is designed to ensure maximum growth of the sector, remunerative jobs and income in agriculture. The Natural Resources Management (Landcare) programme is responsible for enhancing sustainable use and management of agricultural resources and ecosystems. Research & Development, and technology transfer will ensure knowledge and information management. The knowledge and information management systems will ensure efficient and effective governance of the sector. These programmes are all interlinked to create a net positive transformation in the sector.

The Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme aims to achieve physical, social and economic access to safe and nutritious food for all South Africans. Its broad objective is to fight hunger, reduce poverty and to build a culture of self-sustenance through the promotion of food [home] gardens for family consumption needs as well as communal gardens as business directed enterprises. The Department of Agriculture is the lead department within the Social Cluster and Regional Food Security Interventions. Food Production support is the most significant support to the IFSNP. The IFSNP has a number of implementation Challenges. The Programme focuses on the poor and vulnerable – however identification of the target households is still a challenge. Food production needs to be complemented with other interventions within the social security system – yet multiple role players not always willing partners. Once engaged in food production and surpluses generated then storage and/or access to markets becomes an issue. Nutrition awareness critical and is linked to school feeding schemes.

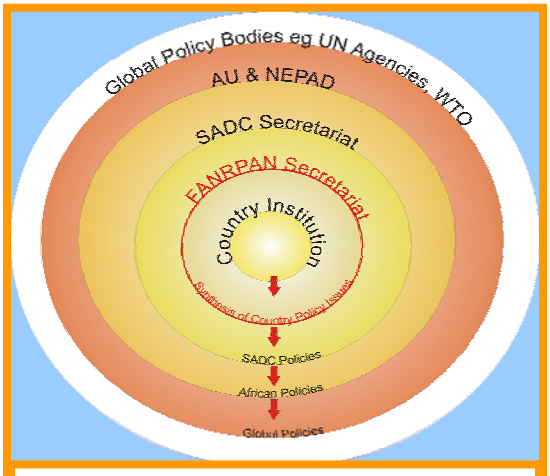
The main objective of the African Agricultural Development Programme (AADP) is to promote South African agriculture's interests in the world through the development and consolidation of bilateral relations with special focus on Africa and South-to-South Cooperation and SADC. The main pillars of the AADP are: trade, technology, training,

people, and politics. The key components are: the Technical Assistance Programme to support bilateral agreements; and the implementation of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme [4 elements – land and water, food security; research and development and market access]. The AADP has several implementation challenges. Agriculture is a strategic sector for most African countries but the sector is often undeveloped and under-resourced. Food security is often a post war or post conflict concern, drought, or the impact of HIV and AIDS, therefore there is need for an integrated approach. Most governments on the continent are dependant on donor funds who also have trade interests to protect. Water, infrastructure and market access and credit are a major limiting factor.

The Department of Agriculture takes active membership and participation within the SADC-FANR unit. It is involved in the implementation of the 4 pillars of the NEPAD – Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). The DoA' is involved in Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) leadership, which allows the region to benefit from international collaboration. FARA a strategic partner and serves as the technical arm of NEPAD. It brings together diverse stakeholders from Southern, Eastern, Western and Northern Africa, as well as, sub-regional organizations such as NARS, farmers' organizations, private sector, NGOs and development partners.
The DoA has a strong relationship with the AU/NEPAD secretariat. South Africa has made a contribution of R140m to the WFP for specific interventions in the region. In responding to the report on the MDG's, the DoA's position is that it will take approximately 150 years for the region to attain the MDG goals as stated in the present form.
In conclusion, the South African Agricultural Sector is a complex one but a critical leverage sector for growth, economic and social development in South Africa, SADC and Africa in general. Public Sector Financing - needs to take into account the need for a comprehensive approach in terms of services but also the need for complimentality in the roles of the different sectors of government. SADC countries must adopt an integrated approach for increased food production, access to sufficient food with good nutritional requirements.

2. FANRPAN Programme Highlights: *By Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, CEO - FANRPAN*

Dr Sibanda gave a brief background that led to the founding of FANRPAN. She indicated that it is now an autonomous stakeholder-driven policy research network with a regional secretariat now based in Pretoria, South Africa. It is strategically positioned to deal with policy aspects of food security and natural resource management in the SADC region. It is represented in 11 of the 13 SADC countries through a multi-stakeholder platform designated as a "country node". She described the country node as being at core of the FANRPAN research cycle.



The FANRPAN Institutional Framework

FANRPAN currently operates in 11 SADC countries through the country nodes. The FANRPAN node is housed in the following institutions in the region: Botswana – the Directorate of Research and Development, University of Botswana; Malawi - the Agriculture Policy Research Unit, University of Malawi; Mozambique - the Department of Agricultural Economics, Eduardo Mondlane University; Namibia - the Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit; Tanzania - Economic and Social Research Foundation; South Africa - the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development,

University of Pretoria; Zambia - the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Zambia; and in Zimbabwe - the Southern African Political Economy Series Trust and University of Zimbabwe.

FANRPAN builds on a long-term investment and commitment already made by SADC governments in establishing universities, national agricultural research institutes, and policy analysis units in Southern Africa. The main policy areas are food security, trade, land policy reform, natural resource management and more recently the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture. The FANRPAN mission is to provide a forum to coordinate, influence and facilitate independent policy research, analysis and dialogue at national and regional level so to ensure food security in the SADC region. FARNPAN's current portfolio of on-going projects includes:

1) The Impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security in the SADC region funded by the EU through the SADC Secretariat HIV and AIDS Programme
2) Rural livelihoods Project in Southern Africa – a rural livelihoods analytical study in collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
3) Strengthening the FANRPAN's institutional capacity and harmonisation of seed policies and regulations in the region – funded by USAID – RCSA
4) Strengthening policy analysis and representation capacity of Farmer-based organisation in the SADC region, in collaboration with the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) – funded by CTA
5) Addressing agricultural biotechnology and bio-safety issues to improve food security in the SADC region – funded by the US Grains Council and the IFPRI program for Bio-safety (PBS)
6) Maize marketing in the SADC region – a study in collaboration with Michigan State University – funded by the Rockefeller Foundation
7) Contract farming as a mechanism for commercialisation of smallholder agriculture in the SADC region – funded by the French government
8) Annual regional level multi-stakeholder policy dialogues and publications – funded by the CTA
9) The Southern Africa Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS) – a project being developed in the context of the USAID's Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), in collaboration with IWMI and ICRISAT

Dr Sibanda indicated that the current thrust is on strengthening the functional units of the network – the country nodes. She gave a brief outline of the main objectives and thematic thrust of the 2005 regional mult-stakeholder dialogue as enshrined in the living theme – "creating a conducive policy environment for a food secure SADC".

3. NEPAD's CAADP: *By Prof Mukandawire*

4. Addresses by Donors and Key Partners: SADC, Government, Farmer Organisation, Private Sector, Policy Research Institutions, Civil Society Organisations and International Partners (SADC; EU; ; FAO, French Government, MSU; ROCKEFELLER; CTA; USAID; ODI; SARPN; SACAU; IWMI; ICRISAT; USAID; IFPRI)

III. KEYNOTE ADDRESSES ON THE PILLARS

MARKETS AND TRADE

1) **Towards Improved Maize Marketing and Trade Policies to Promote Food Security in Southern Africa:** By Dr S. Mundia, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives – Government of Zambia

According to Dr Mundia, 40 – 60% of the cost in maize marketing is borne by consumers of maize meal. Farmers are typically paid about US$80 - $140 per tonne for maize while consumers pay $150 – 250 per tonne for maize meal. Low-income consumers pay as much as 30% of their income on maize or maize meal. There are two maize marketing channels in the Southern Africa region: Formal grain marketing and processing and Informal marketing which is generally small-scale. Hence, public investments and policies that can reduce the cost of marketing and processing can simultaneously help farmers and consumers. The formal sector is often well capitalized, holds most of the storage facilities other than those on-farm, has strong ties with firms in South Africa and other industrialized countries (e.g., Seaboard, a US firm, owns many large mills throughout the eastern and southern Africa region). The informal sector, on the other hand, is under-capitalized, but usually has lower cost services than the formal sector.

Dr Mundia pointed out that there are increasing maize deficits in the SADC region. These deficits are increasingly being filled by maize imports from South Africa or outside the region. Smallholders in SADC need support to efficiently grow surpluses and find market outlets, but they are increasingly being left out of the equation as deficit requirements are sourced from elsewhere.

The future prosperity of small farmer maize production will depend on reducing costs and barriers to informal trade and better integrating informal and formal channels. The Importance of strengthening informal trade derives from the need to improve marketing incentives for small farmers and reduce the cost of food for consumers. When maize supplies are available through informal channels - many consumers prefer to buy maize and take to local small millers for processing. This is a popular option especially among the urban poor and rural food deficit households because it is less expensive. Consumers can save up to 25% on maize meal costs as long as grain is available in local markets

When locally produced surpluses are depleted informal channels become thinly traded. Small millers and traders tend not to procure grain from South African suppliers because they are either unable or unwilling. Imports are coordinated between formal channel suppliers in RSA or USA and large millers, which n turn implies much higher milling and retail margins, and hence relatively high maize meal costs to consumers (approximately 25 - 40% higher). In Zambia these findings have led to two major policy changes by the MACO: Reduction in inter-district grain levies and MACO announced the waiving of maize import tariff, although this is not yet enacted.

Dr Mundia observed that several critical issues and questions still remain for consideration by policy makers. For example, during food shortfalls, how could governments ensure that grain remains available in local markets for consumers to be able to buy? If Food Reserve Authorities (FRA) import maize, could they sell in small lots to small traders in informal markets to ensure that grain is directly available for consumers and small mills? Could governments allow large traders and millers to import for themselves during deficit periods? How about export bans - what are their effects on regional trade, local production incentives and investment in the grain marketing system? How about Import tariffs - if there are possibilities that the tariff is to be waived, no private imports will occur up to that point, which could cause shortages. Markets need greater predictability about government position on tariffs and trade. This will allow markets to play a more positive role in importing adequate volumes during crises.

2) **Harmonisation of Seed Regulations to Promote Seed Trade in the SADC Region – with a focus on Seed Certification, Crop Variety Release and Seed Phytosanitary Systems:** *By E.Zulu*

In order to achieve maximum agricultural productivity in the region, availability and access to agricultural inputs especially seed is important. Seed determines the potential for yield as well as the productivity of other inputs. However, access and availability of quality seed continues to be a problem in the SADC region. Seed supply systems are weak and Movement of seed from one country to another is a problem due to a fragmented regulatory framework.

There are varied levels of development of the seed industry in the SADC countries. The seed industry ranges from well developed and industrialized in some countries to non-existent in others. Seed production ranges from completely private in some countries to state controlled in others. Seed legislation ranges from all-encompassing in some countries to no legislation in others. There are only 4 ISTA Laboratories in the region, only 2 countries participating in OECD seed schemes, and only 1 country is a member of UPOV. Seed certification ranges from voluntary in some countries to compulsory in others. Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe have a seed act. Only Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have plant breeder's rights. All the SADC countries, except Lesotho and Namibia, have some kind of seed regulation in place. Only Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe have international level seed testing laboratories (ISTA).

The SADC Variety Release System – the different countries have no recognition of crop varieties already proven and released elsewhere. All varieties are subjected to a further re-testing, registration and release. National level Variety Release Committees (VRC's) do not meet regularly and they have members that are involved in breeding themselves – which affects objectivity. There is over emphasis on VCU data and no clear guidelines or consistency in release of varieties. SADC countries have yet not taken advantage of advances in science, especially GIS, in which mega environments could be applied in the testing. The current national seed systems delay and even prevent release of new crop varieties. They are denying farmers the opportunity to access new varieties and restricting choices. The current systems expensive and cannot be sustained. There is duplication of variety testing. This, in turn, means low returns on investment in crop development, delayed seed improvement, a large but fragmented seed market, seed companies relocating to other regions – and a general decline in investment in the seed industry. SADC countries must move towards a regional system of variety testing, registration and release that would enable new varieties be available to farmers in the shortest possible time in all the countries such a system is adapted.

The SADC Seed Certification System - There are a number of differences in certification systems, standards and procedures being applied in the different SADC Member States. This implies diminished trust among seed certification authorities, differences in seed standards including seed certification classes, and over insistence for seed to move on orange international certificate (OIC). Only ISTA-accredited laboratories may issue OIC's and only 4 SADC countries have accredited ISTA labs. ISTA accreditation, membership & certificates are very expensive, adding to the cost of seed. Seed moving without an OIC requires re-testing and until the results are known, the seed cannot be sold or distributed. This affects timely access of seed to farmers that may be restricted to a very limited planting window, owing to climatic conditions. If the seed is not available at planting time, the season would have been lost. There is need to create trust in the regional seed industry by recognizing & accepting each others standards, adopting common seed certification classes & standards; adopt common testing methods based on ISTA, and running a proficiency program that keeps participating laboratories on common standard. There is need to organize an efficient and transparent system, which makes better use of resources available in the region and takes into account the practical realities on the ground. There is also need to adopt and implement the proposed harmonized SADC Seed Certification System, which will allow efficient movement of seed in the region, resulting in improved regional trade of seed of a known and consistent high quality.

SADC seed phyto-sanitary issues – phyto-sanitary issues add to problems of delays of seed movements. Inspectors have to check for too many pests, some of which are not of economic importance or are seed borne. This leads to delays in the issuance of phyto-sanitary certificates, as well as, import and export permits. There is need to rationalize a shorter pest list based on science. A shorter list will reduce the time and costs for inspecting imports and export consignments at entry and exit points respectively, as well as field inspections and/or laboratory tests. This will enable speedy clearance and release of consignments. Other general barriers to regional seed trade include: export permits, export quotas, import permit, OECD certification, ISTA Orange International Certificates, import tariffs, and GMO-free certificates.

Some progress has been made on harmonization of seed regulations. Technical procedures have been developed for: Regional Seed Variety Release, Regional Seed Certification and Quality Assurance and Regional Phytosanitary for seed. These draft technical procedures have been taken through consultations with member states at higher levels; a workshop for Permanent Secretaries of agriculture; and presentation to the SADC Council of Ministers. Harmonization of regional seed regulations will lead to a wider range of varieties for farmers to choose from; lower costs for satisfying seed regulations; faster releases of varieties; better cooperation in seeds among Member States, and a more competitive seed market in the SADC region. Harmonization would enable multinational and local seed companies to operate in a relatively free movement of seed and varieties environment – which would lead to a continuous stream of new varieties for major and minor crops to the benefit of farmers. Small farmers would gain access to improved varieties at a much cheaper cost. Seed companies competing for market share would reach out to expand sales and services to small farmers. In the end, farmers throughout the region will be able to walk into seed stores in small market towns near their homes and find a selection of seeds of improved varieties.

In conclusion, harmonization of regional seed regulations is essential and urgent. Progress made to date should be accelerated. Full commitment is needed from all key stakeholders.

THE IMPACT OF HIV AND AIDS ON AGRICULTURE

The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Household Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region: Preliminary findings and Policy Implications of the FANRPAN Regional Study: *By Dr Micah Masaku, University of Swaziland*

Southern Africa is facing a serious humanitarian crisis with severe long-term consequences affecting the entire region. Erratic rainfall, poor governance, poverty, unsustainable debt, failing agricultural policies, unfair international trade regimes, and collapsing public services have all contributed to the current situation, but without HIV & AIDS the crisis would, perhaps, not be of the same dimensions The HIV & AIDS pandemic is at the heart of the crisis, which threatens the lives of some 16 million people. In its 2004 report titled HIV & AIDS in Southern Africa, UNAIDS estimates that about 20% of the entire adult population aged 15-49 is currently infected in the nine southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In some of the most affected countries, rates of HIV prevalence are as high as 33 percent, with widespread effects on health, education, and productivity throughout society

There is growing evidence that HIV & AIDS epidemic is disproportionately affecting agriculture relative to other sectors. This is mainly because the structure of the agricultural sector, especially the smallholder sector, is less able to absorb the impacts of the human resource losses associated with the pandemic. Given the fact that about 70% of the population in most of the Southern African countries depends on agriculture

as a means of livelihood, HIV & AIDS has far reaching impacts in this sector The devastation caused by HIV/AIDS is unique because it deprives families, communities and entire nations of their young and most productive people. The epidemic is deepening poverty, reversing human development achievements, worsening gender inequalities, eroding the ability of governments to maintain essential services, reducing labour productivity and supply, and putting a brake on economic growth. The worsening conditions, in turn, make people and households even more at risk of, or vulnerable to, the epidemic, and jeopadises national and global efforts to improve access to care. This cycle must be broken to ensure a sustainable solution to the HIV/AIDS crisis.

The HIV & AIDS pandemic is being driven by the very factors that cause malnutrition i.e. poverty and inequality. The advent of a generalised HIV & AIDS epidemic in combination with the frequent droughts and food crisis is increasing the likelihood of HIV infection, as people are driven to adopt risky coping strategies in order to survive. These include traveling to search for food and additional sources of income, migrating, engaging in hazardous work, and, most lethally, women exchanging sex for money or food. For those already infected with the virus, malnutrition exhausts the immune system, which makes people more susceptible to malaria, tuberculosis, and other opportunistic diseases, and leads to faster progression from HIV to AIDS. People weakened by HIV & AIDS find it harder to access food, because they are often not strong enough to work or to walk long distances to the market.

Although it is appreciated that successful efforts to improve food security and livelihoods of families should initially focus on reducing the probability of HIV infection and slow the progression of HIV & AIDS through care and prevention strategies, there is a need to take a developmental approach to mitigation of the impacts of the pandemic. Whilst trying to reduce the rate of infections, there is also a need to increase the resilience of households trying to recover from HIV-related illness and death. Proper nutritional support can speed recuperation from HIV-related infections, and allow people living with HIV & AIDS to participate directly in their own care. On the other hand provision of social support to the affected and infected, and creation of employment opportunities and access to markets for orphans and families taking care of orphans, will increase food security and reduce the chances for new infections.

HIV & AIDS has the greatest impact on productive members of society, such as teachers, farmers, traders, and agricultural extension workers, thus increasing the number of dependents in a household. This reduces household productivity and caring capacity, and interrupts the transfer of local knowledge and skills from one generation to the next. In Malawi between six and eight per cent of teachers die each year. In Zimbabwe, maize production on communal farms fell by 54 per cent between 1992 and 1997, linked to AIDS-related illness and death. The impact on the public-health sector is also devastating, as health workers either die or leave employment to care for family members, leaving clinics with low levels of qualified staff. This in turn undermines preventative health measures and increases the burden on public-health structures.

HIV & AIDS has critically diminished the agricultural labour force in some of the most badly affected sub-Saharan African countries, thus increasing food insecurity. As a result of HIV & AIDS, women, children, and elderly people now head more households. They are particularly vulnerable because they have often sold off many of their assets to care for sick family members, and have fewer opportunities to earn an income or grow crops. Many of these households also need to take care of sick relatives and orphans, which further stretches traditional family-based support networks.

A preliminary analysis of the regional data contained in the regional database was carried out. The prevalence of opportunistic infections is evident in the SADC region with most households involved in the study, except for those in Lesotho, agreeing to

have suffered or to have some members of their household who have suffered from HIV & AIDS related illnesses. In Zambia about 72% of the households interviewed had been affected in one way or the other from HIV & AIDS related illnesses. The corresponding figures for the other countries were: Zimbabwe 24%; Lesotho 2%; Botswana 34%; and South Africa 45%. In Lesotho households are still afraid of stigmatization and hence there were reserved responses as far as AIDS related illnesses. This is contrary to the finding that families in Lesotho have the largest average HIV & AIDS deaths in the region. The other countries did not collect comparable data. The common types of opportunistic infections identified in the study are diarrhea and tuberculosis (TB). Approximately 39% of households in the study have at one point dealt with diarrhea whilst 24% have also suffered from TB. Other types of illnesses included malaria, which is more prevalent in Zambia and swollen limps, which appears dominant in Swaziland. These results are indicative of the presence of predominant ill health in households in the smallholder sector of the southern African region. This has adverse implications on the region's food security status and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers who greatly depend on family labor as their main source of labour for agriculture.

HIV and AIDS has altered household demographic characteristics. The mean household size for the entire regional sample was 6.1. About 5% of all households where headed by children under 18years. The actual figures were 6.4% for Botswana, 3.9% for Lesotho, 1% for Namibia, 1% for South Africa, 2.5% for Swaziland, 6% for Zambia and 3.8% for Zimbabwe. 30 % of households had 3 or more dependents. Of these, Zambian, South African and Namibian households had the largest numbers. 65% of Households reported field sizes of under 2 ha. There was no correlation between field size and amount of fertilizer used. 18.2 % of Households reported that HIV and AIDS illnesses and funerals deprived them of farming time. 75% of households have a dependency ratio greater than 1 i.e. have more dependents than economically active members.

HIV & AIDS is affecting the demographic structures of households in the SADC region. Except for Zambia and Lesotho, most households were reported being headed by females whilst the men are either away or are dead. The pandemic is resulting in the cropping up of single parent and/or child headed households. These are posing a great challenge to the remaining parent or the orphans to carry out the productive and reproductive roles without comprising any part of their livelihood. The results are contrary to expectations for Swaziland. Approximately 12% of households in the study were widowed households whilst 0.6% were child headed households. In fact child headed households were only identified in Zimbabwe where one in every 33 households is child-headed. The presence of many widows compared to widowers which was statistically significant, may indicate that men are very susceptible to the HIV virus and are dying earlier than their spouses.

Generally family sizes in the southern African countries involved in the study appear to follow expected trends as observed in literature with the average mean household size for all the countries being 6.5 members household. Botswana and Namibia have the largest family sizes with an average of approximately 8 members per household, although the data for Botswana also had a huge variance. Five of the seven countries collected enough data to calculate dependency ratios, that is, the number of dependents divided by the number that is economically active[1]. From these, all but Swaziland registered a dependency ratio above 1, which means that, on average, there is more dependency than economically active individuals. The presence of HIV/AIDS is sometimes perceived to lead to an increase in the number of orphans and thus the number of dependants in the families that act as sinks i.e. those that absorb the

[1] Dependents= Not economically active= younger than 16 + older than 60. (in cases we would add terminally ill, and disabled)
Dependency ratio = dependents/economically active

orphans. There is little evidence to support this logic from this study. Namibia has the largest dependency ratio of about 1.17.

Generally the literacy levels in the study population were high among family heads in the communal areas. Most household heads in the studies had attained at least primary education. There are only a few household heads, approximately 2.8% of all households, who have reached the tertiary level of education whilst a considerable percentage of family heads (14%) were not formally educated. Despite the seemingly good levels of education there is rampant unemployment among family heads in the study sample. Except for Lesotho, unemployment among interviewed household heads is above 70% in all the remaining countries and it is alarmingly 100% for Zambia, Namibia and Swaziland. The lack of formal employment among family heads in most southern African countries is an indication that most of these households rely heavily on agriculture i.e. farming as a means of livelihood. And the fact mentioned above that women are the majority family heads in 5 of the 7 SADC countries in the study further complicates the issue.

Most smallholder farmers in the study area own small plots. With the exception of Botswana and Swaziland where the average total field sizes are 5.5 and 3.5 hectares respectively the average field sizes for the rest of the region ranges from approximately 1 to 2.5 hectares per household. This, to some extent, constraints the farming activities of such households as there are disintegrated or no land markets that exists in most of these countries. The absence of proper land markets means that households that might be willing and able to rent land would not be able to do so. Most smallholder farmers in the study area, with an exception of those in Lesotho, fully utilized their pieces of land. Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland and South Africa cultivated at least 75% of their arable land in the 2003-2004 seasons. Lesotho's data shows that only 20% of the available hectarage is cultivated.

The effect of high HIV/AIDS related deaths coupled with the effect of high unemployment among family heads in smallholder households, which are mainly headed by females, could be affecting land put under cultivation. The loss of an adult of a family triggers a shock in rural families as a result of losses of productive assets and essential family labour. Thus if households are not resilient to these shocks or find it difficult to deal with these shocks, it could affect their agricultural activities.

Generally, female-headed households in the study sample, which are mainly households headed by widows, owned less arable land compared to their male counterparts and subsequently put less land under cultivation in the 2003-2004 production season (Table 8). This may indicate that the impact of HIV & AIDS is being felt in more in female-headed households compared to male-headed households. Traditional African customary laws and norms in most countries in the study that renders ownership of everything including land to the male counterpart and subsequently to his relatives upon his death could be resulting in more women being disposed of their land. There is generally less crop diversification in the study region. On average around 65% of smallholder households across the region are mostly growing maize. This is because maize is a staple food, which could also act as a cash crop when there is surplus. In addition a significant number of smallholder households in Zambia are also growing grain legumes, sweet potato and cotton. There is a considerable percentage of households in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho and Namibia that are growing small grains such as millet and rapoko. Besides maize, most households in South Africa also grow beans and different types of vegetables. Due to intensive labour demands and working capital demands, cash cropping has been rendered almost non-existent in the region's smallholder farming sector. Only a handful of farmers in Zimbabwe are growing tobacco and paprika whilst a few farmers in Zambia are growing cotton. This reduces potential household income that they could have got from crop production.

From the data, maize seed application rate is very low in Zimbabwe i.e. it is below the recommended 25kg/ha compared to Zambia which has an average maize seed rate of 36kg/ha. There was no data for Zambian smallholder farmers' use of basal or top dressing fertilizer in the production of their maize whilst farmers in Zimbabwe used a considerable amount of basal and top dressing fertilizer in maize production. Although there is no data on use by smallholder farmers in South Africa of the maize seed application rate, they indicated that they also applied top dressing to their maize crop though on average very little.

HIV/AIDS is believed to be reducing farmers' ability to produce for the market in most countries in the region. From the study data, smallholder households are less involved in the marketing of both crops and livestock with the exception of those in Swaziland who marketed most of their produce in 2003-2004 production season. They also sold livestock. There is some marketing of livestock in Lesotho, Namibia and Botswana whilst in South Africa farmers did not sell livestock at all. The data collected for Swaziland seems inflated. 57.2% of households own at least one head of cattle, 11% ever sold an animal in the last year. 9% of households that ever sold a head of cattle now have none. 65.4% of households grew maize, and 44% sold the crop. Median Revenues were in the order of less that 100 Pula for Botswana, less than 100 Maluti for Lesotho, less that N$100 for Namibia, and less than Z$60,000 for Zimbabwe. This indicates that there is increased participation in the market, but more households are becoming impoverished. Households are selling the little they have to meet urgent needs.

The impact of HIV/AIDS on asset ownership of rural households has been largely asserted as negative in many studies. Barnett and Rugalema, 2001, state that HIV/AIDS reduces household's ability to hold on to old and acquire new assets. In an effort to reduce the adverse impacts of HIV/AIDS, some rural households revert to the disposal of productive assets including domestic animals as a short-term mitigation strategy (Chen and Dunn, 1996). This has resulted in loss of animal products, reliable income and food reserve base in times of stress, draught power and organic fertilizers. The rate of livestock accumulation has been very low in Zimbabwe and Lesotho over the past decade due to a combination of factors i.e. poverty and environmental degradation that have reduced the capacity of livestock to grow. Smallholder farmers in Namibia and Swaziland averagely own relatively large numbers of all the identified livestock types compared to other countries in the region.

HIV & AIDS threatens a given household's capacity to hold on to existing farm implements and to acquire new ones. On average every household in the study own an ox-drawn plough, except for those in South Africa. Other common types of farm implements, which are common, are the scotch cart and the wheelbarrow. On average every household in study sample, except for South Africa, owns at least one of these farm inputs. Smallholder farmers in southern Africa are having to divert their financial resources from other productive uses such as agriculture and education, to health care whilst, on the other hand time, spent on agricultural production is also being lost due to time devoted to nursing the sick. A considerable proportion of households, especially those in Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Botswana admitted to have sold either livestock or farming implements as a result of HIV & AIDS. This helps to bring out the short term but usually unsustainable coping strategies that are adopted by smallholder households in response to shocks induced by the HIV & AIDS pandemic.

The data indicates a decline in monthly expenditures on food, clothing and health care in all the countries. Less income was earned from crop production as the major source of income, informal trading and casual labour. Farmers in Swaziland generally earn more and spend more than other smallholder farmers from the rest of the region. HIV & AIDS is increasing expenditures on health especially in Zimbabwe and Swaziland where

over US$50 was spent on health care. Food expenditures though low, take a great proportion of household income in Zimbabwe and Swaziland. HIV & AIDS is also increasing expenditures on burials. A significant proportion of income in Swaziland households is going to funeral expenses. This takes away income investment into savings, human capital and agriculture. Investments into education are still high in Zimbabwe whilst agriculture investments are very small.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The nature, magnitude and scope of the impact of HIV and AIDS is, in many ways, as devastating as the impact of drought or famine. Unfortunately because the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security is gradual, widespread and not so easily visible or quantifiable – no publicly funded emergency-type programmes and aid have been instituted against the epidemic.

1. One of the most important ways in which agricultural policy can contribute to reducing the spread and consequences of AIDS is to contribute effectively to poverty reduction. Risky sexual behaviors are, at least, partially related to limited opportunities to earn a livelihood through other means. Moreover, raising households' and communities' living standards over the long-run -- through productivity-enhancing investments in agricultural technology generation and diffusion, improved crop marketing systems, basic education, infrastructure, and governance – will improve their ability to withstand the social and economic stresses caused by the disease.

Agricultural policies and investments to promote productivity growth would have remained critically important regardless of whether HIV/AIDS had become a major development problem. But the onset of the epidemic makes agricultural productivity and rural income growth all the more critical, especially if poverty exacerbates the spread of the disease, as is increasingly believed. Therefore, greater focus on productivity-enhancing investments is likely to be a critical part of an effective response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and the extent to which progress is made in these areas over the next 20 years is likely to greatly influence living standards in these hardest-hit countries of eastern and southern Africa.

2. Because resources are scarce, there is a gap between desired and available levels of funding and human resources for HIV prevention (e.g., vaccines, behavior change), treatment (e.g., ARV therapies), and mitigating the impacts of AIDS (e.g., social and economic programs to protect the living standards of afflicted households and hard-hit communities). Moreover, every dollar invested in AIDS prevention, treatment, and mitigation cannot be used to promote basic education, improved agricultural technology, the development of infrastructure and markets, and other long-term investments necessary to raising living standards. Therefore, governments and international organizations need solid guidance on the cost-effectiveness of alternative kinds of investments to simultaneously defeat the AIDS pandemic and the chronic poverty that characterized the region even before the onset of the disease but has been further exacerbated by it.

3. While much of the AIDS-agriculture literature to date has conjectured that AIDS would have a major effect on the availability and cost of labour, it is possible that capital constraints and knowledge may become a more severe impediment on maintaining agricultural output and productivity. However, generalizations are unwarranted because of the heterogeneity of agricultural systems found in Africa. Researchers investigating the impacts of AIDS on the agricultural sectors need to carefully account for the context in which they are working, how their results may make sense within their specific context, and that their findings may not necessarily be generalized to other farming systems. Even within a particular agricultural system, there is also great heterogeneity, such that appropriate programmatic responses to

AIDS may be household-specific, conditioned by the gender and household position of the deceased individual, initial vulnerability prior to the onset of illness, and a household's ability to attract new members.

4. In terms of human capital, the key impacts of AIDS are on labour availability and the transfer of skills and knowledge. AIDS-affected households may have limited labour availability and there will be competing demands between caring and productive activities. Hence- responses should not place additional burdens on households' time and labour; if a new activity is involved, the returns to that activity should be greater than those to an existing activity, which could be substituted Interventions that increase labour availability will be useful, e.g. introducing labour-saving technologies, supporting production of less labour-intensive crops, but also assisting with caring and reproductive activities to free up time for other activities, and improving treatment for opportunistic infections so that less labour is lost due to illness and caring

5. AIDS can reduce financial capital through the extra healthcare costs during chronic illness, funeral costs, reduced income, and/ or increased costs from taking in orphans. Some potential responses, which must be tailored to the particular circumstances, include:

- Safety nets and direct welfare support, e.g. via cash transfers, food aid, agricultural input provision, support for costs of health and education
- Assistance with micro-credit, taking into account the particular difficulties that may be faced by AIDS-affected households in meeting repayment requirements and the considerations regarding their labour constraints
- Assistance with livestock multiplication or re-stocking

6. Interventions to support social capital are perhaps less obvious than those for other types of assets, and are probably also less tested. Nonetheless the following interventions could be considered:

- Providing support to households to repay local loans and maintaining the viability of such support systems
- Supporting households and communities or CBOs caring for orphans (either through direct safety nets, or by supporting community initiatives such as communal fields and vegetable gardens)
- Providing organizational support and capacity-building to relevant community-based organizations
- Promoting greater gender equality and children's rights to reduce any cultural, social or stigma-related limitations on their participation in economic activities
- Promoting greater inclusion of children and child-headed households in community activities

7. Most of the interventions in support of human and financial capital will, in turn, support physical capital by reducing the need for households to sell off productive assets, or by increasing their stock of assets. Additional responses include:

- Direct provision of physical assets or of services for maintaining assets (e.g. veterinary services)
- Lobbying for changes in inheritance laws to reduce asset losses following the death of an adult male or both parents, or for greater respect for and enforcement of existing laws, which are not respected in practice

Finally, the assessment results should be the primary guide to the type of intervention or response to be carried out. It will usually not be the case that all AIDS-affected households are in need of support, and there will typically be many unaffected households who are also in need who should not be forgotten. There are a very wide variety of possible responses to the effects of AIDS on livelihoods, and a well thought out combination of interventions – particularly if they build upon possible synergies

between one another and with interventions in other sectors relating to prevention, care and treatment – will be most effective.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

1. Strengthening the Capacity of Farmer Organisations in the SADC Region: *By Ajay M Vashee, President of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)*

Ajay Vashee outlined SACAU's objectives as enshrined in its constitution. SACAU's main objective is to foster mutual cooperation and understanding between national farmers' organisations, agricultural leaders and the farming community in SADC with a view to strengthening the voice of agriculture. SACAU also disseminate views and information to agricultural organisations, governments and other bodies in SADC and well as internationally. SACAU endeavours to foster goodwill and understanding between member organisations and their leaders. SACAU membership is by bona fide national farmer organisations in SADC countries. The eligible farmer organisations must be representing farmers voluntarily, be autonomous, legitimately farmer controlled and independent of political parties.

The current SACAU members were from Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. SACAU has a target of having at least 10 countries in the region being members by 2006. They have recently been exploring possibilities of opening up membership to regional commodity associations. SACAU has a five-member board elected at the Annual Congress. A secretariat, based in Pretoria, was established in 2003 in response to an expanded membership. Funding for SACAU comes from annual membership fees, conference fees, donor agencies and other international partners.

The main activities for SACAU have been in facilitating a trade desk; profiling farmer organisations and regional commodity associations; trade capacity building of farmer leaders; being inaugural chair of the SADC Business Forum. SACAU's 2006-2010 strategic plan seeks to strengthen its position as the leading regional farmer organisation focussing on: Capacity building support to farmer organisations in the region; Providing a platform for the collective voice of farmers on matters of common concern; Provision of policy related and other key agricultural information to farmer organisations.

Vashee observed that farmer organisations are still faced with a number of challenges that included: limited capacity among national farmer organisations to represent and service the needs of their members; and very limited farmers' influence on agricultural related matters at regional and international levels. This has been as a result of farmer organisations having limited financial resources; weak governance and administration structures and limited technical knowledge to develop and implement programs. A proliferation of farmers' unions at national level leading to competition is another underlying weakness. SACAU is also constrained it its capacity to address regional and international issues.

Vashee pointed that in order to be effective, SACAU needed support to improve its governance, administration and other management systems. It needed support to development of policy positions on key issues, as well as support for the research necessary in order to have informed positions. SACAU requires capacity building in policy advocacy, lobbying and negotiating skills, as well the, resources to support this process. SACAU needs strengthening in sourcing and disseminating trade and market information to its members. Further support is needed in the area of communication – both internal and external – as well as, the use of ICT in development. SACAU also needs support to develop the financial sustainability of farmer organisations as well as their capacity to raise and manage funds in a sustainable manner.

2. Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of FANRPAN: *By Dr Lindiwe Sibanda, CEO-FANRPAN*

Dr Sibanda informed the delegates that FANRPAN is currently involved in strong drive to strengthen and revitalise its institutional capacity. This is a collaborative effort with Iowa State University through USAID's Regional Centre for Southern Africa. She observed that since inception in 2001, FANRPAN has been unable to implement effective stakeholder-driven policy programs due to lack of long-term personnel and non-systematic approaches at the national and regional secretariat levels.

The strengthening process will address these shortcomings to create a stronger network that is better able to respond to the policy analysis and research needs of the SADC region. The quality of policy research undertaken will be enhanced. As part of this process and in order to service its clientele better, FANRPAN has re-located to Pretoria, South Africa. This process also envisions the involvement of FANRPAN, through the revitalised national nodes and local universities, in the harmonization of regional seed regulations and provision of a repository of knowledge for future seed policy development, so that regional seed policy can evolve over time to satisfy new and changing needs.

The overall objective of this process is to transform FANRPAN into a reputable regional network, with enhanced human and institutional capacity for supporting policy formulation and implementation in the SADC region. The specific activities planned include: re-invigorating FANRPAN regional governance systems for effective peer review and strategic policy advocacy; equipping the regional secretariat with both human and financial capacity for coordinating policy research and advocating for effective policies in sustainable manner; revitalize the membership of the FANRPAN national networks for increased participation national policy dialogue; increased engagement of national institutions in quality policy research with a view of harmonizing regional policies; setting up new a national FANRPAN node in Angola; and building a sustainable funding base.

According its constitution, FANRPAN should have a 10-member multi-sectoral regional board of governors composed of two permanent secretaries in FANR related ministries, two farmer representatives, two private sector representatives and two members from policy research institutions within SADC. There is a seat reserved for a donors' representative selected from donors active in the region. There is also a seat reserved for the SADC FANR directorate. However, out of these positions only four members are currently actively engaged. There is need to bring on board strong farmer and private sector representation. FANRPAN would like to bring on board agribusiness or trade body representatives. It would like to bring on board a representative for the donor community, and possibly stronger financial and legal skills into the board membership. As part of this capacity strengthening FANRPAN will also review its constitution to make it more proactive and effective. Key progress indicators in this are be: a full regional board by the end of 2006; an increase in frequency of board meeting per year; institutional arrangements formalised with all institutions represented on the board; more robust communication and information management system set up; and communication strategy developed. By the end of 2006 FANRPAN will have developed a comprehensive programme and operations monitoring and evaluation system.

Due to limited funding, FANRPAN has been operating with only one technical officer - the CEO - with three support staff handling office accounts, administration and secretarial work. In this strengthening phase, FANRPAN has recruited two additional technical staff – a programmes officer and programmes assistant. The programmes officer will coordinate policy research and be responsible for communication while the program assistant will be responsible for office administration and management. The

additional human resource will greatly strengthen the capacity of FANRPAN to undertake relevant strategic research and keep policy makers in the region abreast.

FANRPAN was until May 2004 hosted at the SADC hub in Harare. As a result of the relocation of the SADC FANR secretariat, FANRPAN has been unable to remain at the high-rise expensive former SADC offices. Following a search in the region for alternative established host institutions, FANRPAN has been offered office premises by the International Water Management Institution (IMWI) in South Africa based in Pretoria, South Africa. As part this capacity building process, FANRPAN has already set up it new regional office at IWMI in Pretoria.

The strengthening process will revitalize the membership of the FANRPAN national nodes in order to increase the participation of key stakeholders in national policy dialogue. FANRPAN is currently represented in 11 of the 13 SADC countries. According to the constitution, the network should operate through a national level inter-sectoral platform designated as a country node. The management of a country node is vested in a node management committee which should have, at least five, elected members comprising representatives from government, private sector, farming unions, policy research institutions and non-governmental organizations. The node management committee, in consultation with the regional secretariat, appoints a node coordinator who becomes the link between the national stakeholders and the regional secretariat. The role of the node management committee is to provide information on sectoral issues and support the node coordinator and stakeholders. The committee should provide oversight on the operations of the node, including supervision of budgets and work plans. The node coordinator should coordinate and facilitate policy research projects of the network taking place in-country. As the administrator of the node, the national node coordinator is responsible for all correspondence, budgets, work plans and the smooth running of the node at country level.

Unfortunately these country level operational arrangements have never been fully operationalized for various reasons. Nine out of the eleven FANRPAN national nodes are coordinated by academics in a university environment. These are institutions where teaching rather than research is core-business and the setting traditionally precludes multi-stakeholder participation. While government and policy analysts have been adequately represented in FANRPAN policy processes, the private sector and farmer organizations representation in the majority of participating countries, is very weak and, in some cases, not sufficiently organized for effective engagement. In the instances where farmer organizations exist and are organized, engagement in policy processes has been minimal and has tended to represent the views of a few powerful individuals. Affiliation of the nodes to FANRPAN is too weak for effective accountability. There is very limited or no integration of FANRPAN activities within the organizations hosting the country nodes. The FANRPAN activities need to be mainstreamed into the activities of the host institutions rather than being considered as part-time marginal issues. The capacity strengthening process over the next two years will focus on reviewing the hosting arrangements if the nodes, as well as, the increased participation by other stakeholders in the activities of the node.

FANRPAN would also like to increase the involvement of national level research institutions in quality policy research with a view of harmonizing regional policies. At the regional level, FANRPAN has signed MOUs with many technical partners including: IFPRI, IITA, Michigan State University, Iowa State University, US Grains Council, ICRISAT, AFRICA-Bio, and CTA who are all keen to assist in building the network's capacity through joint research partnerships, staff secondments and mentoring arrangements.

These relationships have, so far, yielded little benefit at country level as there is no clearly defined entry point for engagement with country nodes. It is expected that

through the planned in-country policy dialogue series, the various partners will be able to participate, assess the issues under discussion, and establish a working relationship with the node research protocols for addressing the identified issues. Under the strengthening process, FANRPAN will place emphasis on policy issues related to seed trade in the region. FANRPAN will work with IOWA State University, SADC Seed Security Programme, ICRISAT, CYMMT and other national, bilateral, regional and international partners to carry out studies on the impact of seed relief on seed trade; the impact of the seed voucher program on smallholder production; impact of trade agreements agricultural input trade with special reference to seed and fertilizer; the nature and extent of Plant Variety Protection agreements in the region; and a review of HIV and AIDS policies in the region to develop guidelines for the agricultural sector.

The strengthening process will also include the setting up of a national node in Angola. The FANRPAN regional office has been approached and requested to help set up a national FANR network in Angola. The USAID RCSA's thrust under strategic objective 15 has incorporated Angola as one of five focal countries that will receive support. This presents an excellent entry point for FANRPAN. The network will seek support from partners working under Strategic Objective 15. The process of setting up a national network requires intense support because it involves sharing the vision, cultivating support and engaging of all key stakeholders. Key activities will include an inception/scoping visit, identifying host organisation, stakeholder consultation meeting organised, node committee selected and node facilitator appointed.

Under the strengthening programme FANRPAN plans to establish a sustainable funding base. FANRPAN will develop and implement a comprehensive fundraising strategy. The host institution, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), will in the initial stages, provide administrative support. FANRPAN and IWMI will cost-share the receptionist and telephone services. The FANRPAN's website will be hooked up on the IWMI Internet network. A percentage-based fee will be charged for procurement services involving capital and consumable goods. Project money will be provided through Iowa State University for which an administrative fee is charged.

3. Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Regional Food Security Processes: *By Ms Sue Mbaya, Executive Director - Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN)*

The Look, Listen and Learn project for promoting the use CSO evidence in formulating food security policies in the SADC region was conceived through a tripartite collaborative effort of three organisations: the Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and the SADC Food and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). The tripartite held a regional inaugural stakeholder consultative meeting for the project on May 25, 2005, in Johannesburg, South Africa aimed at identifying, in a participatory manner, the key on-going regional policy processes in the food security sector and assessing the level of CSO involvement and participation, as well as, the potential for deeper involvement through evidence-based policy advocacy.

Strengthening the food security of poor and vulnerable people is an issue of increasing regional and international importance. The Millenium Goals Review process taking place this year (2005) will raise the profile of food security issues worldwide and thus provides a useful backdrop for this project. The Millenium Declaration adopted by world leaders in 2000 set a series of ambitious targets for contributing to a better and safer world in the 21st Century, including a specific commitment to halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (MDG-1 Target 2). In September 2005 a high-level UN summit was held to review progress towards these global anti-poverty goals. MDG-1 Target 2 was high on the agenda because it is central to improving lives and livelihoods but progress has been notably slow. The review of the MDGs is an opportunity for the development sector, especially civil society

organisations (CSOs), to assess the progress made and to formulate new strategies for improved impact.

Progress towards strengthening food security in the SADC region has been impeded by the humanitarian crisis, which affected the region between 2001 and 2003. Better policies for increasing food availability, strengthening effective access to food, and improving food utilisation are now recognised as a priority need in the SADC region and fundamental to the achievement of the Millennium goals. Accordingly a number of countries (e.g. Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique) are conducting comprehensive reviews of national food and nutrition security policies, and a number of donors (for example, DFID, USAID and UN-WFP) are putting in place long-term funding to support policies and processes contributing to food security at national and regional levels.

However, there is considerable evidence in the SADC region, that poor progress with strengthening food security over the last two decades has been as much the result of weaknesses in policy processes as failures in food production and utilisation technologies (e.g. negative outcomes relating to issues surrounding distribution and strategic grain reserves in Malawi; and the disastrous consequences of Zimbabwe's land reform policy implementation).

A contributing factor to the weakness of policy processes has been the marginal participation of members of civil society organisations in the development and implementation of policies relating to food security. Hence strengthening the participation of CSO in policy processes in the region is an important component of the strengthening policy processes as a whole. This is largely because civil society organisations would provide hands-on and grassroots experience in strengthening policy processes because they operate in the arena between the household, the private sector and the state and can thus effectively negotiate matters of public concern.

It is now clear that the likelihood for CSOs to successfully influence policy makers and policy practice is greater if their interventions are evidence based. The extent to which CSOs can be successful in representing such evidence is determined by the political context, by the nature of links between policy makers and other stakeholders, as well as by external influences that may be at play. The quality and credibility of the evidence must be the basis for the legitimacy of CSO advocacy. CSO engagement in policy processes needs to be strengthened through a SWOT analysis and strategies that will maximize the strengths and opportunities while minimizing the weaknesses and threats.

Not enough is known about the context, evidence and links in policy processes for food security in southern Africa. This LLL project, which will be a collaborative effort between CSO networks working on food security in southern Africa, is aimed at developing understanding in this area, to test the impact of different approaches, and to disseminate lessons on both context and process, at national, regional and international level. The project is intended to engage with a range of development partners at national and regional level in southern Africa to: Promote the contribution of civil society organisations to the debate within southern Africa on food security policy; Promote the voice of Southern Africa civil society organisations in the international debate on food security policy; Publicise within the region and internationally the policy and practice lessons learnt; Disseminate within the region relevant evidence and policy lessons from civil society organisations elsewhere in the world.

The project recognises that all three basic components of food security are important and these are: Food Availability; Food Access; Food Utilisation. The project will use action research to develop understanding around: Lessons about how CSOs use evidence to influence policy; lessons about how CSOs relate to their downstream and

upstream partners; lessons about food security priorities for poor and vulnerable people in Southern Africa. Project activities for
Stage 1 were mainly planning activities: Preparing and circulating draft concept paper; Inaugural project meeting; Stage 2 were regional activities – background research on the current food security policy processes at regional level; hosting one day country level consultative meetings; ongoing preparation of project alerts (policy briefs); and Stage 3 will be pilot influencing activities that will be developed at a regional meeting for the project.

The three most critical outputs of the project will be: an increased and better understanding of policy processes relating to food security regionally and internationally amongst CSOs and other development partners in southern Africa - through project's collaborative action research, meetings, and project policy briefs; generalisable lessons about the role of CSOs in using evidence to contribute to pro-poor policy processes disseminated internationally - through
Project Alerts and web alerts; and the voice of southern Africa poor people promoted in the international debate on food security policy - through selected dissemination activities by regional CSOs.

4. Knowledge Management Systems and Concepts: From Research to policy - *By Paul Bartel, Consultant for SAKSS*

According to Bartel, the role of knowledge in sustainable development is 3-fold: to provide information; to describe or predict trends; and to provide the appropriate tools for achieving development. The paradigm that drives knowledge generation is the age-old marketing paradigm of" demand determines supply". The knowledge begins as a set of raw data – some basic observations and trends. This data is turned into information through analysis. The information is turned into knowledge through a peer review and secondary analysis or approval system. This knowledge is then translated into action – this could be a policy action in the case of FANRPAN.

Three factors determine the demand for knowledge: timeliness, sustainability and reliability. In terms of ttimeliness, the choice of tool and level of complexity should yield information products within the decision-maker's time frame. In terms of sustainability, the choice of information system should be sustainable within the human and financial resource constraints of the operating agency. In terms of reliability - as the demand for information products is established, resources must be made available to improve and maintain reliability.

People's knowledge base is directly dependent on their worldview – their paradigm of life. Technicians and policy makers often come from a positivist viewpoint. Communities often come from a traditionalist viewpoint. The selection of analytical tools should always attempt to bridge the gap between the different viewpoints.

Bartel described the analytical context as consisting of 3 main knowledge processes: Assessment to identify lessons learned, characterization of these lessons or conceptualization, and then modeling for new of future scenarios. The strategic context, on the other hand, is driven by three processes: understanding the underlying theoretical framework; drawing hypotheses out of this theory and linking both the theories and hypotheses with conjecture. Most strategic programmes and activities are based on existing theory and its hypothetical derivatives. The analytical context contributes significantly to strategic planning – since a prescription can only be as good as the diagnosis. A good strategic plan will use the assessment, characterization and modeling processes of the analytical context and link these to existing theory and conjecture – to generate working hypotheses – which then become the legitimate basis on new programmes and activities.

Knowledge management involves organizational adaptation through processes that combine data, information processing and the creative and innovative capacity of human beings. It as a concept, a business discipline and theory, a collection of technologies, and a philosophy. A knowledge system consists of several components: a knowledge base of domain related knowledge; a meta knowledge base; knowledge diffusion to components of the organization; the effects of knowledge diffusion in organizational component knowledge bases; a knowledge related technical infrastructure supporting retrieval, display, discovery, maintenance, communication, storage, knowledge base, integration, etc; educated, trained, personnel who can use the organization's knowledge base; and educated, trained personnel who can perform knowledge management. A knowledge system is a dynamic system. The core of any knowledge system is vision and strategy. From this a knowledge cycle evolves that includes: value(s) creation, learning and growth, business processes, and multiple stakeholder processes.

Having described some concepts of knowledge and knowledge management –Bartel then went to discuss the concept of Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (SAKSS). He described SAKSS as a source of information and knowledge on rural development issues. Its objective is to provide an open platform for bringing objective research, analysis, and information to bear on the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of rural development strategies. SAKSS is a conceptual framework that seeks to organize information and evaluate investment and policy options for generating rapid and sustained increases in the productivity and commercialization of the rural economy – especially for smallholder agriculture. The core of this framework builds on economic and geographical data and analysis to guide the setting of investment and policy priorities at local levels, and on monitoring and evaluation to improve decisions and strategy formulation over time.

SAKSS is a knowledge management system that integrates and builds upon existing data and information, analytical tools, accumulated knowledge, and existing national and international analytical capacity. SAKSS invests in new knowledge using the technical capabilities of modern information and communication technologies, geographical information systems, and knowledge management systems. SAKSS is implemented as a network of institutions and individuals who supply and use data and information. As an information tool it contributes to building and strengthening local capacity for policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and strategy formulation. SAKSS in an international public good for managing shared knowledge, data, and analytical tools in support of decision-making and implementing action plans for agricultural growth.

SAKSS can be implemented both at country and regional level. At country level SAKSS addresses a full range of strategic issues related to rural-based economic activities and national food security. A country SAKSS includes information and analysis that help identify investment priorities for growth by examining the effects of macro-level policies and sector wide investments on rural economies and the options for increasing the productivity and commercialization of smallholder agriculture. Through spatial analysis SAKSS can integrate other important aspects of rural development such as the potential for growth in non-farm economic activities, the quality of rural health care and sanitation, access to education, and the extent of environmental degradation. At the national level country SAKSS are being piloted in Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda.

At regional level SAKSS informs decision-makers about the region-wide benefits or losses stemming from strategies, investments, and policy reforms implemented within and between countries. A regional SAKSS enables analysis of development alternatives that aim at generating growth spillovers through shared public-good investments in R&D and infrastructure, through greater economic integration and harmonization. In cooperation with NEPAD and the regional economic organizations, SAKSS regional

networks are being launched in East, West and Southern Africa. This effort is being led by 4 CGIAR centers – ILRI, IITA, ICRISAT, and IWMI.

SAKSS-Southern Africa will promote broader analysis of agricultural investment opportunities for enhancing rural incomes and growth. It will promote broader analysis of the impacts of agricultural programs on the alleviation of poverty and food insecurity. It will build capacity in the region for carrying out such analyses through a "community of practice". SAKSS will be a network of networks involved in sharing data, and synchronized research agendas and activities. SAKSS-SA will be involved in economy-wide analysis, review of best practices, monitoring trends and assessing impacts, as well as monitoring and evaluation of regional level policy processes. SAKSS-SA will establish a website for that will enable stakeholders to access data and documents, a workspace for discussion and dialogue, a calendar of events and contacts and links to key partners and websites. The website will also host a minimum central database – populated through searching partner databases. It will also host statistics for various economic and development indicators. It will also have statistical maps.

The SAKSS-SA is being implemented by FANRPAN, IWMI and ICRISAT. Progress made so far includes: An inventory of poverty assessments relating to agriculture and natural resources investment southern Africa is in process; an inventory of spatial data sets and associated analytical capabilities that can be used for such poverty assessments is in process; an assessment of why policy analysis is not having is not having more impact on key decision makers (public & more impact on key decision makers) is in process; facilitated meetings to create a "community of practice" (an effective network of practitioners); in the process of establishing the SAKSS technical node with basic analytical and training capacities i.e. (with capability of completing initial spatial analysis of poverty/hunger trends.)

In year 2, SAKSS-SA will Support poverty/ hunger analyses linked with policy dialogues in at least 2 countries; conduct three regional training workshops on techniques for analyzing the level and determinants of poverty/ hunger; and carry out knowledge sharing and dissemination. The expected outputs by the end of the second year include: a functioning network of partners, a functioning and growing knowledge base, common meta data and data standards in the network partners, increased analytical capacity among partners, emerging engagement patterns of decision-makers in the use of third-party analytical products.

SECTION 2

MARKETS AND TRADE

Making Maize Markets Work for Smallholders in the SADC Region: Toward a Regional Framework for Effective Policy Responses to the Emerging Food Crisis in Southern Africa: *By Anthony Mwanaumo, Hyde Haantuba, Pedro Arlindo, Danilo Abdula, T.S. Jayne, David Tschirley, Jan Nijhoff, Michael Weber, Cynthia Donovan, and John Staatz*

Starting in January 2004, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and Michigan State University (MSU) initiated a joint research and policy outreach activity on regional maize marketing and trade in the Southern Africa region. The objectives of this activity were to work closely with Ministries of Agriculture in the region to identify policy options for promoting small farmer welfare and national food security through improved maize marketing and trade in the region. Focus countries during this initial phase of policy analysis and outreach are Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia.

An interim regional workshop was held in Pretoria South Africa on June 21-22, 2005 involving government officials, private sector stakeholders, and policy analysts from the region. In light of the emerging food crisis associated with another poor maize harvest in most of the region, three policy issues were identified as having a critical influence on the region's ability to address its food security challenges:

1) The need for greater investments in basic publicly-provided goods to support small farmers' agricultural productivity and access to markets;
2) The need for policies that would ensure better coordination between the large-scale "formal" and small-scale "informal" marketing channels in meeting the market access and food security needs of small producers and consumers; and
3) The need to promote clarity and transparency in governments' involvement in the distribution, storage, and trade of maize, so as to reduce the uncertainty facing private traders who might otherwise be able to at least partially redress imbalances in countries' production and consumption requirements through regional trade

This policy synthesis describes the emerging food situation in the region for the 2005/06 season. It describes the on-going policy processes occurring in selected countries of the region (building upon the discussions at the Pretoria regional workshop) and major policy challenges to enable the region to effectively respond to the food situation during the 2005/06 season.

Entering the 2005/06 marketing year, revised assessments indicate that all countries in Southern Africa, except South Africa, have cereal deficits ranging from 100,000 tonnes in Zambia to 1.62 million tonnes in Zimbabwe (SADC, 2005). Roughly 9.71 million people in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are estimated to be in need of food assistance before the 2006 harvest, requiring roughly 730,000 metric tones of food aid (SADC, 2005). This season is an illustration of the apparently ever more frequent and severe food crises affecting the region.

Governments in the region increasingly recognize the importance of harmonizing regional food trade policies and investments to respond better to transitory food crises and promote small farmer income growth and food security over the longer run. Most analyses now find support for the position that regional trade is becoming an important component of national food security for many countries in the region. However, the objective of maize "trade without borders" has been difficult to achieve, and recently a number of countries have taken steps to inhibit private maize trade through export bans, import tariffs, and state monopolies on trade.

In recognition of this problem, FANRPAN convened its conference in Pretoria, South Africa on June 21-22, 2005 to explore options for addressing these issues. A number of follow-up processes have been initiated at country level, involving the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance in Mozambique and Zambia, the Zambia National Farmers Union, the Agricultural Consultative Forum in Zambia, FANRPAN, and other stakeholders. As an outgrowth of these policy processes, decisions have been made in both countries that will promote smallholder and consumer welfare. Two decisions stand out in Zambia:

1) First, local government taxes on maize movement across district boundaries were reduced substantially and harmonized to a uniform level (now less than $0.05 per bag of maize traded) in June 2005. The Zambian National Farmers Union and local policy analysts in the Ministry of Agriculture played an instrumental role in

demonstrating the problems that the taxes imposed on small farmers, consumers, and traders.

2) Second, the Zambian government abolished the import duty on maize from non-COMESA countries in September 2005. Since the only country in the region with substantial maize surpluses is South Africa, which is not a COMESA member country, the import duty would have put upward pressure on Zambian prices.

The elimination of the maize import duty is likely to have two major benefits. First, it provides a clearer signal to the private sector to import maize. Prior to the announcement, uncertainty over if and when the import tax would be lifted was causing private importers to wait, in possible anticipation of the tax's removal; the resulting uncertainty was raising the likelihood that imports to fill Zambia's maize deficit would arrive too late to avoid price spikes in local markets. Indeed, maize prices have increased dramatically in recent months. A second benefit of the elimination of the import tax is that it should significantly improve the country's ability to respond to the food crisis by allowing maize grain to be available commercially in Lusaka at roughly $242-263 per tonne, as opposed to $277-300 per tonne with the 15% import duty. While this will be a major help, it is clearly not a sufficient condition for meeting the current challenges.

In Mozambique, policy makers recently exempted domestically-produced maize grain from the 17% value added tax (VAT) when it is sold to the domestic processing industry, and also simplified licensing and border procedures for food imports. The full implications of the VAT change are not yet clear, because large millers source the vast majority of their grain from South Africa for reasons beyond price, especially due to issues of quality and reliability of supply. Yet this exemption is clearly one important step in allowing domestic grain to compete with imported grain in supplying the growing domestic milling industry. Because it is technically illegal to charge VAT on imported grain if it is not charged on domestic grain, some traders have now petitioned the government for removal of VAT on imported grain, even if it is meant to be sold as grain into wholesale and retail markets. This final change, if it were to occur, could have positive effects on consumers by improving supply and reducing prices of grain during the hungry season (Tschirley et al, 2005). Other than the VAT, Mozambique has maintained its open borders policy on maize trade, which has been shown to have positive effects on both farmers and consumers. Continuing to simplify licensing and border procedures, especially for small traders, is important to fully realize the benefits of this open trade policy.

The main policy challenges that the region must address include:

1.Raising the Productivity of the Small Farm

Even in a reasonably good rainfall season, at least 50 percent of small farm households in the region are buyers of maize or maize meal, and this percentage is higher in a bad year. The major long-run challenge is to raise the productivity of the smallholder so that rural households will be able either to grow enough food or purchase it through markets, rather than depending on food aid. Small farm productivity growth will require greater public investment in crop science (especially for semi-arid farming conditions characterizing most of the region), extension systems, physical infrastructure, health care, education, communications, and farm finance. This is a tall order in the face of highly constrained national budgets. Greater donor funding will be critical, but is not likely to emerge unless local governments re-allocate a greater portion of their own budgets to these investments. Raising governments' commitment to invest in African agriculture is already an important priority on NEPAD's agenda. Productivity growth in the smallholder sector is a very critical component of a more food secure Southern Africa region.

2. Improving Competition and Timely Response in Local and Regional Markets

The current food crisis in Southern Africa has led to an urgent call for food aid. But even during periods of national food shortfalls, most rural and urban poor rely more on

markets than on emergency distribution to secure their residual food needs. Well-designed targeted food assistance programs will be crucial to maintaining food security during the upcoming 6-8 months. Yet the cost and logistical difficulties of such programs can become prohibitive if markets do not move food efficiently to consumers with effective demand. Thus a comprehensive food security strategy in southern Africa requires that maize grain and meal, and other food staples such as cassava or rice, are accessible at affordable prices through the market.

The future of the small-scale farming sector's ability to prosper from maize production and marketing will depend on strengthening the performance of the marketing system serving small-scale farmers, and on integrating the informal marketing system with the more developed "formal" marketing channels. Informal marketing and small-scale maize milling sectors play important roles in the region. Informal marketing channels in most of Southern Africa provide large shares of the maize meal consumed in rural and urban areas during the post-harvest months when supplies from domestic production are available. These informal channels rely mainly on small-scale, and relatively low-cost hammer mills (and in some areas, hand pounding) to grind maize into maize meal. As long as grain is available in local markets, a large proportion of urban consumers (and rural maize-buying farm households) buy grain from local vendors and pay a fee to mill the grain into meal *(mugayiw*a) at a local small mill.

Mugaiwa is usually considerably cheaper than the refined packaged maize meals because of lower milling costs and fewer services (e.g., no packaging). Mugaiwa also has a higher nutritional content than refined packaged meal. Urban consumer surveys in Zambia and Mozambique show that most of the urban poor rely primarily on informal traders and small millers for their maize meal (Mwiinga et al., 2003; Nijhoff et al, 2003; Tschirley et all, 2005). Mwiinga et al (2003) found than consumers eating mugaiwa could reduce their expenditures on maize by 20% in urban Zambia compared to those purchasing the same amount of packaged roller or breakfast meal. However, during years of local production shortfalls, grain supplies in local markets dwindle later in the season, making it difficult for consumers to source grain for *mugaiw*a. Industrial mills linked to the formal marketing systems have traditionally been able to import maize, or to ensure preferential access to government-imported maize, resulting in a temporary increase in market share for industrial mealie meal.

In Zambia, this occurred in 2001/02, following the importation of some 150,000 MT of maize facilitated by Government, channeled exclusively to industrial mills. Some of these mills, and the supermarkets that carry their meal, are affiliated with the large grain milling and retailing firms in South Africa and the United States. Low-income consumers were forced to pay a higher price for maize meal than would have been the case if imported grain were released onto local informal markets through small traders. These unnecessary price rises could especially jeopardize poor urban and rural consumers' food security. Avoiding this scenario in 2005/06 will require at least two steps:

a) First, licensing and border procedures need to be simplified to encourage participation by small traders in regional trade; these traders are the most likely to sell grain in local markets and thus will have the biggest impact on the affordability of maize for poor consumers.
b) Second, if governments choose to arrange imports themselves, they need to release significant shares of these imports onto public markets rather than channeling them exclusively to large commercial millers. Such a step will enable consumers to continue accessing less expensive mugaiwa if they so choose, thus reducing their staple food bill and improving their food security.

3.Reduce Policy-Related Market Uncertainty

In countries where government involvement in the staple food market is seen as part of a transitional phase towards full market liberalization (e.g. Zambia and Malawi), predictable and transparent rules governing state involvement would reduce the risks

facing private traders, would facilitate greater coordination between private and public decisions, and would thus result in more stable and predictable staple food prices. Government interventions need to be consistent with the resources that are available. Overstating government import intentions has in the past led the private sector to conclude that it had no role to play in importation, which contributed to price rises above import parity levels in Malawi in 2001/02 and Zambia in 1999/00 (Rubey, 2004; Nijhoff et al, 2003).

The Malawi government in late 2001 imported maize from South Africa to distribute at prices well below market levels, to protect poor rural consumers. However, the government imports arrived late and were not sufficient to meet demand. As a result, ADMARC depots began to experience stock-outs, and prices soared. Yet the private trade had not imported because they expected to be unable to compete against the low ADMARC official maize selling price. When it became clear that ADMARC's supplies were insufficient to last the full season, private traders scrambled to import, but for several months much of rural Malawi experienced grain shortages and prices as high as $450 per ton (Rubey, 2004; Tschirley et al, 2004).

The lesson from this experience is that well-intentioned but poorly implemented government actions can exacerbate food price instability rather than reduce it. This interaction between subsidized government intervention in the market, or the threat of it, leading to private sector inaction, is one of the greatest problems plaguing the current policy environment of liberalized marketing systems. Given current prices in South Africa, it would be possible for a private trader to import maize into Zambia at roughly $245-260 (without an import tariff). In principle, a trader might make arrangements to import once local prices near these levels. However, if there is any risk that a government agency might import and sell the grain below full cost (e.g., at $170 per ton to local millers), private traders are unlikely to risk their capital to import, because their landed cost of $225 or $245 could not compete against the supplier selling at $170. In this way, the uncertainty regarding future government actions can impede the private sector from undertaking socially important tasks that it could do quite easily if government policy were more predictable.

4. Make it Easier for Small-Scale Traders to Participate in Grain Trade

Formal trade regulations, even when they do not explicitly impede trade, can make it difficult for small traders to participate in regional trade. Yet when regulations are minimal, such trade can move very large volumes of grain very quickly, and can have major impacts on markets, as illustrated by the regular maize trade between northern Mozambique and Malawi. Some countries have simplified trade regimes for small traders, but these often accommodate only the very smallest traders who, due to their small size, face very high unit costs of importing. Revising these simplified trade regimes for small traders and expanding them to accommodate more and somewhat larger traders could have a measurable effect on the availability of grain in markets, because these traders are the most likely to sell their grain into the informal marketing system where it will be available at low cost to consumers.

5. Coordinating Markets and Food Relief to Improve the Response to Food Crises

In considering how markets can be used as one of the tools of relief, the following are important considerations:

a) The bulk of food moved in normal, as well as, in a crisis year in most countries is moved by the private sector.
b) The fundamental challenge is to conceive and operate emergency food and income assistance programs for crisis years that are effective, but that also strengthen the role and reduce costs for the way private markets functions in both normal and crisis years.
c) The hunger problem includes both emergency relief needs and problems of chronic malnutrition. The latter may kill many more children every year than the large, visible crises, but the chronic problems receive less media attention. A key challenge is to devise ways to deal with the shorter-term crises that also contribute to

alleviating chronic malnutrition. This cannot be done without incorporating the private sector as a key part of the strategy, because a well-functioning, low-cost food marketing system is essential for an economically sustainable assault on chronic food insecurity.

A market-friendly strategy to deal with a food crisis would include the following elements:

1. Actions to reduce uncertainty and facilitate private-sector in-country arbitrage, as well as regional and international imports;
2. Making information widely available to all actors (including the private sector and farmers, who control most of the inventories in the system) on the nature of the problem, current market conditions, and production and import outlook. Here is where prior investments in market information systems and early warning systems have high payoffs;
3. Clear statements by government of its willingness to work in partnership with the private sector to facilitate private-sector imports and trade flows internally within the country (e.g. removal of trade barriers, facilitation of import procedures, tax exonerations, etc). This must be done in a way that ensures competition within the private sector rather than dealing with just a few large importers, who could monopolize the situation.
4. This approach does not imply that the government will be impassive. The government may engage in subsidized sales or limited free distributions of food in some markets, but needs to be transparent about the conditions under which these actions will be taken and to the extent possible, identification of where they will take place (intentions about where, when, and how much food aid government intends to distribute, then updates on actual progress and changes to the plans. The big problem is to avoid swamping the whole system with relief flows that are uncoordinated with what the private sector is doing, creating great uncertainty for the private sector and undermining its incentives to invest in longer-term food system development.
5. Marketing extension, both information about prices and volumes, and basic analysis that is widely "extended," may be as important as any research that is done. A major part of the "comfort level" among public decision makers about the role that the private sectors plays comes about because groups like the market information systems in Mozambique are steady partners of the private sector in bringing transparent information and analysis to the public policy debate.

In conclusion, emergency food operations should follow a three-step process:

I. **Start by focusing on markets** - - food agencies and government should determine what markets are capable of supplying in terms of the volume of additional grain they can bring to the country through commercial imports (both formal and informal), geographical areas they can cover, and proportions of the population in these areas that will have sufficient purchasing power, at expected price levels, to ensure a minimally adequate diet.

II. **Facilitate market respons**e - governments and emergency planners should then take concrete measures to facilitate the envisaged market response. Food markets in developing countries suffer from high unit costs for domestic marketing, constrained access to foreign exchange and credit to finance food imports, and frequent policy constraints that further limit import response. Combined, these factors can, in the short-run during a crisis, lead to skyrocketing food prices. This is especially true when the crisis affects an entire region rather than a country, as in a widespread drought in Southern Africa. Yet governments can, with selected assistance from donors, put in place temporary and longer-term measures, which may dramatically increase the ability of markets to respond to these crises. Eliminating policy barriers to trade and ensuring more transparent statements and actions by government regarding food imports should always be the first step. Mozambique has shown that this open and clear policy stance greatly facilitates

trade's contribution to stable prices and food security. Additional balance of payments support from donors or a foreign exchange credit facility for use in importing food staples may be called for if import needs threaten macroeconomic stability. Additional measures could include direct cash transfers to affected households where markets could work but purchasing power may be limited, cash for work if done early enough that households' health is not already compromised, and even temporary transport subsidies on specific routes. Direct cash transfers and cash for work projects should be well publicized, including timing, location, and total cash to be disbursed, to ensure that traders realize ahead of time that there will be increased purchasing power in the area.

III. **Turn to food aid -** finally, planners should turn to food aid if markets and market-facilitating measures are expected to be insufficient to meet immediate food needs and protect vulnerable households from excessive indebtedness or asset depletion. These food aid programs should be designed to cover only those geographical areas and populations that markets are not expected to cover. Vulnerability assessments to assist in targeting, as was done in Southern Africa in 2002/03, should be an important part of this response. In addition, because even the best designed emergency programs can have important effects on markets, governments and relief agencies need aggressively to make information about the food aid program widely and publicly available. If traders fear that food aid quantities will be too large or poorly targeted, they will reduce the amount of food they import, further increasing the burden on the food aid program.

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Improving Maize Marketing and Trade Policies to Promote Household Food Security in Central and Southern Mozambique: *By Danilo Abdula, David Tschirley, and Michael Weber*

Mozambique's food production and marketing system faces a huge set of challenges over the next decade, driven by population and income growth, and by a rapidly rising urban share of population. These challenges are examined through the lens of the country's primary staple, maize, focusing primarily on the Center and Southern regions of the country.

Mozambique's urban population share is estimated to be above 35%. Rural population growth rates were slightly negative between 2000 and 2005, compared to over 5% annual urban growth rates. These growth rates will lead to an urban population share of 48% by 2015. Even if economic growth slows from recent rates, total urban demand for maize grain is likely to double over the next decade while the number of farmers may actually decrease. The country will also need to continue feeding a large number of rural net buyers. The rise in urban demand represents a huge growth opportunity for Mozambican farmers. Yet the growth in demand could easily be satisfied by imports from South Africa if productivity in production and marketing in Mozambique does not improve.

Less than five percent of maize producers account for over 50% of production and over 70% of sales. Unit marketing costs are very high, quality is poor, and it is difficult to provide reliable supplies to large buyers, especially in the South. As a result, the largest millers in the country, located in Maputo, rely almost exclusively on maize grain imported from South Africa. Medium-scale millers in the Center and in the South outside of Maputo rely primarily on local production, but hold very small market shares. Penetrating the growing industrial maize milling market will require major public and private investment in supply chain development.

About 70% of rural households in the Center and South are net buyers of maize; total rural demand for maize rivals that in urban areas. Especially in the deficit South, this means that maize grain availability and prices during the hungry season can have major impacts on household real incomes.

Maize meal prices are extremely high in Mozambique. The leading brand cost about US$800/mt in early 2005, while the cheapest was about US$440. Maize grain at retail was about US$280/mt during the same period in Maputo. These prices compare to a range of US$270-US$330 for comparable meals in Zambia, and grain prices of US$190. This very wide differential between grain and meal prices in Mozambique may be related to the structure of the industry: the two largest millers hold nearly a 100% market share in Maputo and also sell into major cities and rural areas throughout the country. At least three new millers have come into the market in recent years, but they have much lower milling capacity. At least in the South, they have a very small market share and do not appear to have had any effect on prices charged by the leading millers.

Breakfast meal:rice price ratios range from 1.6 to 2.9 in Maputo compared to 0.61 to 0.75 in Lusaka. The relative affordability of rice means that its budget shares are relatively high. Maize shares in total food expenditure in urban Maputo province are 2.4%, compared to 7.4% for rice and 15.5% for wheat. The maize share rises outside of Maputo, to 14.5% in other southern provinces and 40% in the Center.

Despite very high maize meal prices, only about one-third of maize consumers in Maputo rely primarily on maize grain for their maize supplies; about two-thirds primarily purchase refined maize meal. In cities outside of Maputo, about 70% of consumers rely primarily on maize grain. This is attributable to the surprisingly low share in Maputo relying on maize grain to the low price and widespread availability of rice, the resulting very low budget share of maize, especially for higher income consumers, and the buying habits of low income consumers, who tend to buy very small quantities at a time, making hammer milling infeasible and hand pounding less desirable.

The urban hammer-milling sector boomed in the early 1990s, fed by market reform and large amounts of yellow maize food aid in the market. With the sharp reduction in food aid after 1993 and the rise of the maize mill CIM starting in 1997, the hammer-milling sector began to decline in the urban South. By 2003, it was difficult to find hammer mills in the city, and those operating mostly indicated that their main clients were small manufacturers of alcohol, not consumers or retailers of whole meal. Though about a third of consumers in Maputo, and 70% in other southern cities, rely primarily on grain for their maize supplies, nearly all of them process the grain at home, reflecting long-standing practice in this area of the country. Beira, and the Center in general, has maintained a much more active hammer-milling sector. Of 18 such mills interviewed in Beira in 2003, all indicated that their main clients were either retailers of *mugaiwa* or consumers; 70% of interviewed consumers in that city relied primarily on grain for their maize supplies, and 90% of these reported using hammer mills either wholly or partially to process the grain.

Mozambique's 17% VAT is applied to imported maize but not rice or wheat. Maize meal is exempt but maize grain is not, meaning that grain imported for sale as grain must pay the VAT, while grain imported for meal receives a reimbursement. Thus, principle, the application of the VAT favors rice and wheat over maize, favors the availability of maize meal over maize grain at retail, and favors large industrial millers over smaller traders and hammer millers. In practice, however, imports of grain for sale as grain have not occurred despite several prolonged periods where such imports would have been profitable. We attribute the absence of imports by informal traders to complexities in import procedures and to the high degree of formality and large scale of the South African maize marketing system. Our explanation for the lack of imports by larger scale formal traders is essentially that consumers in Maputo have access to a low cost option in rice, that they spend very little on maize, and that most of them are therefore willing to pay the high premium for refined meals on the small quantities that they buy. While based on known facts about relative staple prices, staple budget shares, and buying habits of low income consumers, this explanation is partial and amounts to a researchable hypothesis.

Government could take several steps to improve competition in the maize milling sector. All involve reducing the cost of supplying maize grain to Maputo so that more consumers can choose to purchase grain rather than meal, and either hand pound it or mill it in hammer mills. To reduce the cost of maize supplies from domestic production, government should collaborate with private sector in a maize supply chain development program. Key elements in this program would include:

1. More active marketing information focused on farmers in the Center (and promising areas of the South) and the traders that supply the South from the Center. Making marketing information available through cell phones, possibly on a subscription basis, should especially be investigated;
2. Training for these traders in basic accounting and post harvest handling techniques;
3. Promoting more efficient rural assembly of grain through recognized market days, improved physical infrastructure in assembly points, and improved transport availability linked to these assembly points;
4. Improved marketing infrastructure in public terminal markets of Maputo, Beira, and perhaps other key cities of the South and Center. Improved storage and sales point infrastructure would be especially useful.
5. Financing of the program would need to involve public, private, and donor funds.

Maize imports for the South will be a crucial complement to domestic production for the foreseeable future. At least two steps could be taken by government to facilitate efficient trade in maize.

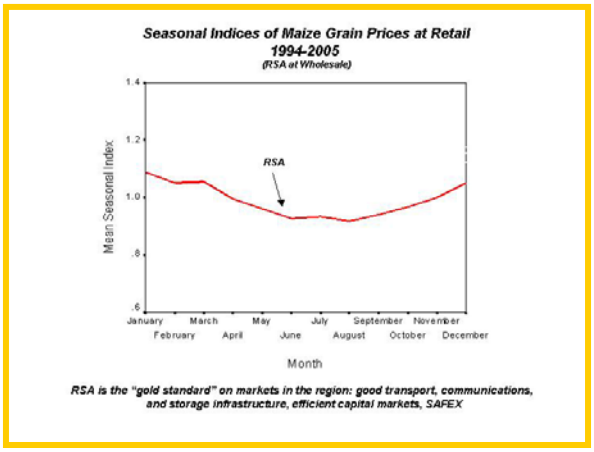
1) First, government might consider converting the value limit in the simplified regulatory procedures for small-scale maize imports to a volume limit, and increasing this limit to perhaps 10 metric tons per month. This change would substantially expand the number of informal traders who could take advantage of these provisions, and would reduce their unit costs.
2) Second, government could consider phasing out the VAT on maize grain. Because all imports currently are for processing into grain, resulting in eventual reimbursement of VAT, the tax generates no permanent income for the state.

Furthermore, although the VAT alone has not acted as a binding constraint on maize imports for sale as grain, it could become a constraint if the reforms in import procedures suggested above are instituted. Finally, if the above two measures are taken, government and donors could consider special programs to facilitate rehabilitation of the hammer milling sector in the South, which has steeply declined over the past decade.

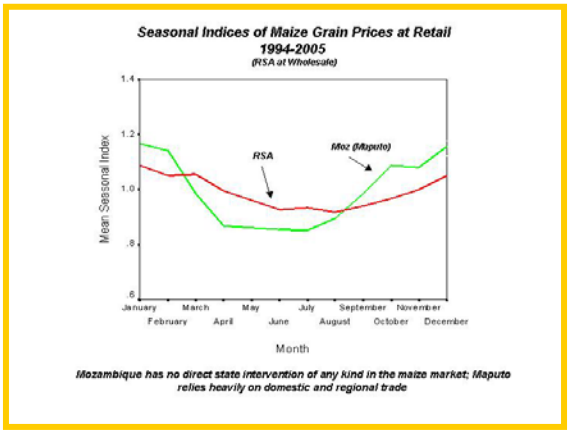
Learning from the 2002-2003 Food Crisis: Lessons for 2006: *Pedro Arlindo, David Tschirley, Jan Nijhoff, Billy Mwiinga, Michael T. Weber, and T. S. Jayne*

Southern Africa is likely to face cyclical droughts every 3-5 years. How can governments ensure an efficient and effective humanitarian response while avoiding negative impacts on long-term development objectives? Arlindo et al examined this question through a brief review of the events 2002-03 food crisis, and a comparative review of the current 2005-06 marketing season.

Production in 2002 was only slightly below average. Several pockets were badly affected, but not the whole region. It is widely understood that this crisis was caused by slightly low production plus low initial stocks, governance failures e.g. in Zimbabwe, high poverty levels exacerbated by HIV/AIDS and increased household vulnerability.

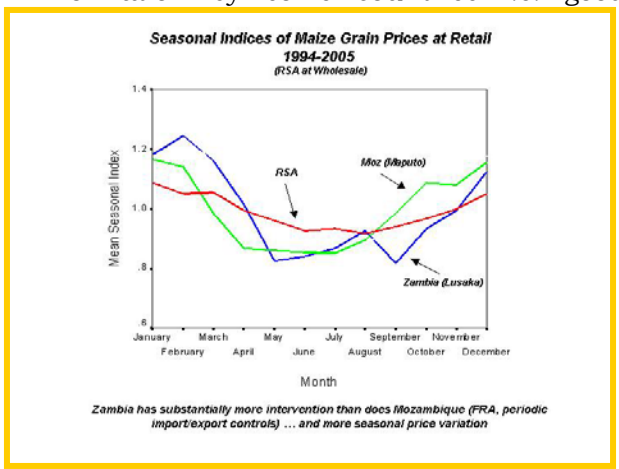


What was done? Early warning systems really were early – they sounded the alarm early, made regular updates, communicated clearly, and mobilized international and national (regional) communities. In other words - Early warning worked! By year end, about half the estimated gap was filled by registered inflows. Three-quarters of these were from official trade, not food aid. All countries in the region had timely information. They could have designed the "right" policies and measures. South Africa was very transparent in information and kept doors open. Mozambique kept its borders open. Zambia did a bit better than in 2001/02. Donor and trade response was sufficient to avoid "humanitarian crisis and potential famine". 77% of the food aid appeal had been "committed" by international community. Trade inflows were 3 times greater than food aid inflows



Food aid needs were almost certainly overestimated. Vulnerability Assessment data was collected, but use was very uneven and the data was not broadly available. The Malawian Government underestimated private sector's role and Ignored informal imports, which arrived early. The Malawian government handled commercial imports and mobilized food aid, which arrived late. As much as 250,000 MT arrived under government programs. There was too much maize in the country and extremely low prices throughout 2003/04. The government was unable to sell the very large stocks except at very low prices.

What was done right? The early warning systems worked right. There was transparency in information by some countries i.e. good investment in public management information systems. The private sector played an important role. As a whole – a humanitarian crisis was avoided.



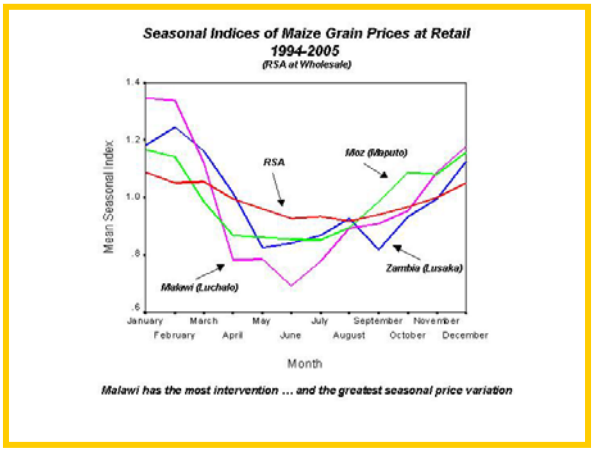
What was done wrong? Direct interventions by some governments inhibited appropriate private sector

response probably leading to greater price instability. Food aid needs were certainly overestimated. Communication between governments and private sector could have been better. Governments need to send clear signals about the magnitude of planned interventions in the market to avoid uncertainty by private sector. Understanding what was right and was done wrong is important for improving future responses.

What is the current 2006 situation? Total maize production in the 2004/05 period in SADC countries, excluding South Africa, is 16% less than the production for the 2003/04 period. It is 5% less than the last five years' average production. However if South Africa is included, the overall SADC production will be 3% above 2003/04 production and 8% above the 5-year average.

How is current situation similar to the 2002/03 crisis? A good early warning system is still in place. South Africa continues leading transparency in information in the region. Mozambique is again exporting maize to Malawi. The reality of this trade is much more widely known now. In 2002/03, Whiteside estimated as much as 250,000 flowed into Malawi. FEWSNET has documented 71,000 from July 2004 - May 2005.

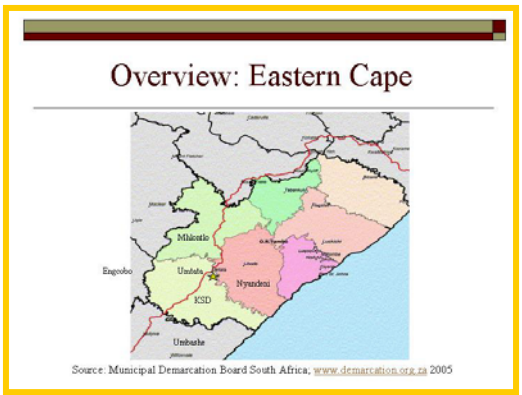
The SIMA Windshield Survey shows much greater presence of Malawian traders in Mozambique this year compared to last, including in areas they did not previously reach. How is current situation different from the 2002/03 crisis? There is a much higher surplus in the Republic of South Africa that could cover the entire deficit in rest of region. The projected maize surplus in the Republic of South Africa for 2006 is 4.88million metric tonnes. The projected maize deficit and import requirements in all the other SADC countries 2.80million metric tonnes. The RSA prices, and their equivalent in Kwacha and Meticais, are much lower this year.



Malawi has the most intervention ... and the greatest seasonal price variation

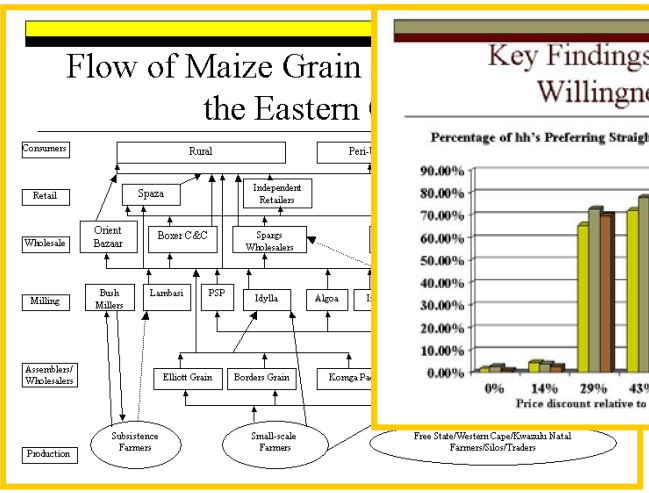
What needs to be done? The fact that commercial imports in the 2002/03 crisis accounted for 75% of official inflows and food aid only 25% means that there is plenty of scope for trade even in poor years. Governments need to send clear and consistent signals to their private sector. Accurate, timely, and accessible information available from SAFEX and SAGIS in the Republic of South Africa is a positive force for transparent markets. Mozambique should maintain their policy on open borders. Governments should reduce uncertainty for private sector through clear statements. There is in need to continue refining the country food balance sheets. Better estimates of tuber production and better estimates of informal trade are needed. There is need to strengthen VAC system to better understand the real household needs because more than often vulnerable households need more than food. There is in need to experiment with non-food aid interventions.

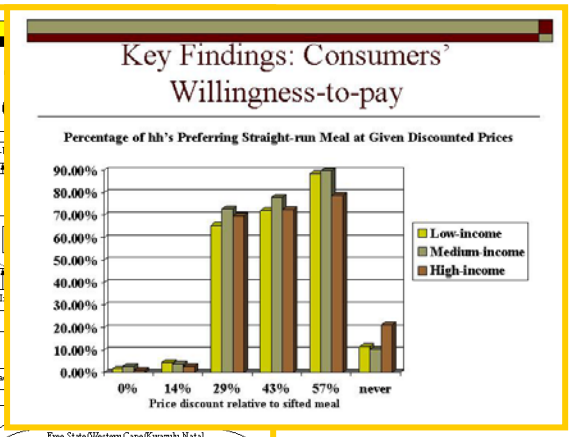
Opportunities to Improve Household Food Security through Promoting Informal Maize Marketing Agents: Experience from Eastern Cape province of South Africa: *By Lulama Ndibongo Traub and T.S.Jayne*

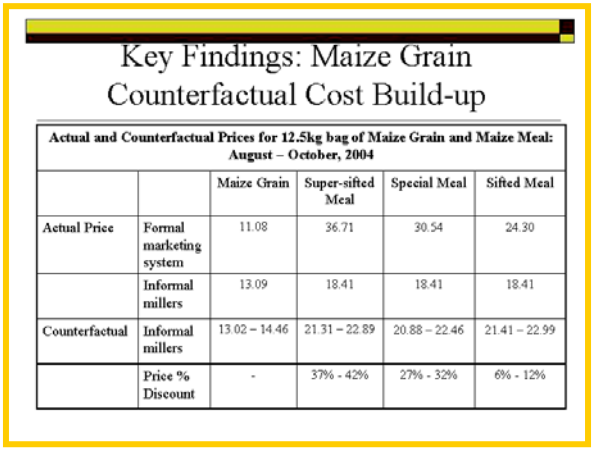


The main study objectives were to understand the trends in consumer demand for maize, understand the impact of small-

scale millers on household disposable income and to understand the maize market barriers.



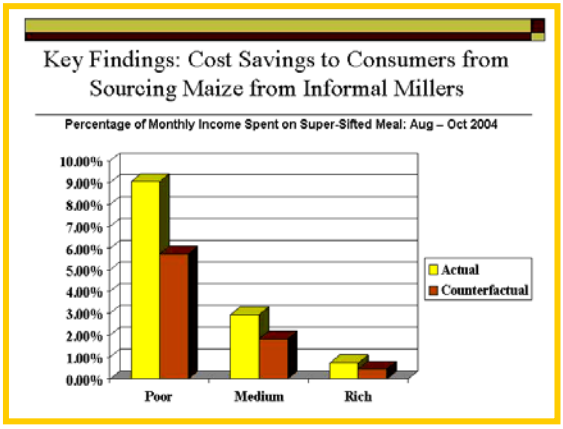


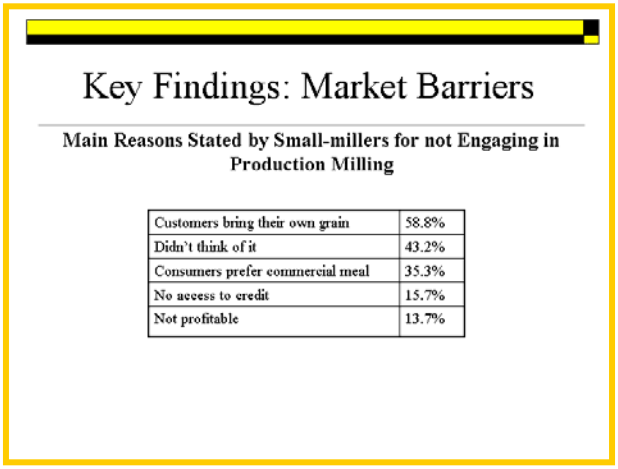


Key Findings: Maize Grain Counterfactual Cost Build-up

Actual and Counterfactual Prices for 12.5kg bag of Maize Grain and Maize Meal: August – October, 2004

		Maize Grain	Super-sifted Meal	Special Meal	Sifted Meal
Actual Price	Formal marketing system	11.08	36.71	30.54	24.30
	Informal millers	13.09	18.41	18.41	18.41
Counterfactual	Informal millers	13.02 – 14.46	21.31 – 22.89	20.88 – 22.46	21.41 – 22.99
	Price % Discount	-	37% - 42%	27% - 32%	6% - 12%





Key Findings: Market Barriers

Main Reasons Stated by Small-millers for not Engaging in Production Milling

Customers bring their own grain	58.8%
Didn't think of it	43.2%
Consumers prefer commercial meal	35.3%
No access to credit	15.7%
Not profitable	13.7%

In conclusion, there is evidence of growing consumer demand for straight run meal at discount prices. There are cost-savings available through informal markets – but an information gap exists. There is need to close this information gap – especially for the existing roller millers. There is also need to cad dumping practices. There is need to re-evaluate the impact of the food fortification initiative.

Addressing the impact of Bio-safety systems and Regional Policies on Food Security and Agriculture in the SADC Region: *By Marnus Gouse, University of Pretoria*

Developing countries in general and in particular the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, are at crossroads as to whether or not to embrace agricultural biotechnology related applications and products such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The African continent faces various challenges, including declining agricultural productivity as well as increasing food insecurity and it has been argued that GMOs might be able to address some of these challenges through a reduction in the need for insecticides and labour, lower environmental pollution, reduced human exposure to chemicals, increase in insect-control efficiency and increased farm level incomes. Conversely, concerns have been raised about the potential ethical, environmental and food safety threats that GMOs may pose.

The pace at which SADC countries are engaging in biotechnology is a cautious and precautionary one. This is partly caused by the lag in their own internal policy and regulatory capacities to manage GMOs and fear of encountering difficulties in selling crops on some of the international markets and losing vital foreign currency. On the other hand, the cost of not adopting GMOs might be very high for the SADC countries. There is a likelihood of losing significant income gains through better technology and a danger of not being able to utilise emergency food aid from organisations such as the World Food Programme (WFP). Failure by the SADC countries to engage in agricultural biotechnology is likely to increase the technology divide in the region. The cost of establishing and implementing precautionary policies and biosafety infrastructure to assess risks that might be posed by GM crops and managing movement of GM materials across international borders are other major challenges for SADC countries.

The configuration of countries into sub-regional initiatives, in this case SADC, complicates matters towards a common regional policy on biotechnology and GMOs in particular. While each country strives to establish the policy and regulatory frameworks on bio-safety and biotechnology, few have the capacity to fully enforce them. This makes the need for a common regulatory approach and policy position in the SADC region plausible through setting acceptable standards that could be approved across countries.

The main objective of FANRPAN regional bio-safety research project is to document a balanced review of the technical information needed to inform SADC's regional bio-safety policy choices responsibly. The initiative is designed to generate, for the SADC countries, new information about the possible economic and social costs and benefits of attempting to remain a "GM-free" region. This project will be undertaken in three SADC countries i.e. Malawi, Mauritius and South Africa. The three selected countries have active national FANRPAN networks, very strong national biotechnology institutions and have developed functional bio-safety policies and legislation.

The specific objectives of the project include: undertaking a stakeholder analysis in the selected SADC countries highlighting opportunities, challenges, views and positions related to their engagements in trade, GMOs and food security; analysing possible impacts of GM crops on farm income and food security; analysing possible commercial risks of loosing regional and international export markets if GM crops were to be released for commercial production; estimating the impact of precautionary GMO principle on access to emergency food aid and food security in the SADC region; and identifying a range of regional biosafety policy options for decision-making on issues of GMOs and trade in SADC countries.

This project is a collaborative effort between FANRPAN and the IFPRI-led Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS). It is financially supported by the USAID. PBS's main purpose in Southern Africa is to support the USAID's Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA)

goal of product development to increase agricultural productivity and to reduce barriers in the trade of agricultural GM commodities. FANRPAN will undertake research through its national nodes in the three focal countries represented by the University of Pretoria, University of Mauritius and Bunda College in Malawi. The technical partners include AfricaBio in South Africa, BioEroc in Malawi, and the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI). The three technical partners are already involved in the on-going PBS activities in Southern Africa, supported by USAID Southern Africa Regional Office.

Situational analysis and stakeholder views on GM crops: The case of Malawi: *By Charles Mataya Bunda College, University of Malawi.*

Malawi government position is that whatever developments occur in the scientific and technological fields elsewhere will affect Malawi and that the country cannot afford to remain behind the GM revolution. However, there is still need to build capacity to manage and regulate the use of biotechnology. Against this background, a comprehensive biotechnology policy is being prepared.

According to NASFAM, genetically modified crops would improve yields and resistance to pests and diseases & drought. In contrast to NASFAM, the Farmers' Union of Malawi (FMU) has not taken any position of GM due to varying opinions of its membership. One reason why FMU does not have a stand is that GM crops are not a priority since farmers have as yet to realise and maximize the potential of already existing technologies. FMU is also cautious of the cost implications of GM technology and their approach is to advocate technologies that are neither inferior nor too advanced.

While the legislators appear to appreciate the likely contribution of GMOs to food security, they are not well informed of the likely health effects of consuming GM food. The fear of negative effects also extends to traded commodities especially tobacco. Legislators have placed the onus on the scientific community to create public awareness of the effects of GMOs and also to propose strategies of how the country could overcome this dilemma.

The stand of importers and exporters on GM crops is that Malawi should identify a specific zone to commercially exploit this type of technology on pilot basis to avoid contaminating non- GM crops. Further, they recommend investment in capacity development to effectively manage and regulate the technology. If capacity is not developed, the country is likely to import expensive technology which smallholder farmers may not be able to afford.

Input suppliers consider GM technology unnecessary considering that smallholder farmers have not even reached half the productivity threshold of conventional technologies. The argument that genetic transformation would confer disease and insect pest resistance and that farmers would reduce cost of production was challenged on the basis that Malawian farmers do not apply any agro- chemicals due to capital constraint. Another observation made is that GM technology would lead to contamination of the gene pool due to cross-pollination between GMO and non- GMO fields. Citing South Africa, Input Suppliers were quick to observe that fields growing GMO crops are isolated from those growing conventional crops.

The position CSOs is that Malawi should not accept GMO. Although FMU has not taken a stand on GM technology, it is a member of Participatory, Ecological, and Land Use Management (PELUM) that is totally against introduction of GMOs. PELUM has over 160 civil society organizationsincluding Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. PELUM is calling upon all governments to put in place a moratorium on GMOs until they are proven safe.

The Consumer Association of Malawi (CAMA) is totally against introduction of GMOs in Malawi. One of the reasons against GMOs is that GM pollen could blow onto the fields of non- GM crops leading to contamination. Further, CAMA rationalise its position with the argument that some consumers are concerned with food safety, toxins and nutritional changes, allergies, antibiotic resistance, environmental changes that GMOs may bring.

Research scientists do not appear to have a uniform stand on GM technology. The position taken by one group of scientists is that Malawians have been using GM products for a long time in form of pharmaceuticals such as insulin. However, most users are not aware of the origins of these products. In contrast, another group of scientists proposes a precautionary introduction to genetic modification in agriculture, food and feed. This position hinges around safety, concerns about human and animal health, and the environment. Other issue s influencing this stance include intellectual property rights and social concerns.

Situational Analysis and stakeholder views on GM crops: The case of Mauritius

Methodology used for the stakeholder analysis was a questionnaire and administered interviews to 34 representatives from: Academia (5), Regulatory bodies (6), Research and development organisations (5), Professional organisations (4), Civil society and consumer organisations (2), Laboratories and standard setting organisations (2), Interested stakeholders (2), Input suppliers and private sector (4), and others (2).

Opinion on and impact of GM crops: 35.3% - no opinion; 44.1% - GM has a positive impact; 20.6% - GM has a negative impact. The study showed that those with an optimistic view of the impact of GM crops had a biological scientific background. Those belonging to civil society and consumers organizations were more pessimistic. Ranking of possible benefits, in order of importance, were firstly increased yields; herbicide resistance; disease resistance; increase profits for farmers; cheaper foods for consumers; reduced costs of production; improved nutritional quality; and lastly improved product quality.

Knowledge about the technology - stakeholders had good knowledge. 90% of stakeholders claimed that consumers have poor awareness. No formal studies on GM foods have been carried out on awareness and acceptance of Mauritian consumers. Concerns about genetic modification: there were 4 main categories of concerns: Food safety; Environment; socio- economic; and Ethical.

Public perception and willingness to buy GM products - the public in general lacked information about agricultural GM. Those that were aware are either reticent or afraid of side effects of GM foods. 38.2% stakeholders are willing to buy GM food if of same price as conventional food. 44.1 stakeholders were willing to buy GM food if cheaper than food produced in conventional ways - suggesting that price can be a determinant factor in GM food acceptance.

GM production locally: 55.9% respondents aware that sugarcane has been genetically modified in Mauritius. 9 out of 34 were of the opinion that GM sugar has been commercialized. Only sugarcane has been genetically modified locally- but no field trial has so far been approved. Trade of GM crops: 50% of the respondents were of the opinion that Mauritius is an importer of GMOs. Maize imported from Argentina is certified to contain grains from GM events and therefore GM feed is used in Mauritius. Soyabean also imported from Canada, a producer and exporter of GM soya - high probability that Mauritius import GM maize and soyabean.

International agreements: 20.6% respondents aware that Mauritius has ratified the Cartagena Protocol. Only one stakeholder aware that Mauritius is signatory to SPS

(Sanitary and phytosanitary and TBT (Technical barrier to Trade) agreements. Biosafety framework: 53% respondents aware that Mauritius has enacted a GMO legislation and that a NBC has been instituted. Only 5 respondents knew that only part of the Act has been proclaimed. Only 35.3% respondents considered that it was necessary to have a GMO Act. IPRs - 38.2% respondents were of opinion that courts and the judiciary system should enforce compliance with Patents, Industrial design and Trademark Act and Copyrights Act. 11.8% thought that they did not. The remaining did not know if they enforced or not. Two Bills are in preparation (Plants Varieties Bill & Seed Bill). There is a need to assess their use in accordance with existing legislation to protect IPRs of GM agro- products.

Harmonizing regional biosafety systems: 73.5% of the respondents recognized the importance of a harmonized regional biosafety system. However, difficulty for it to materialize was acknowledged. Main constraints were seen as: financial, infrastructural, legal, capacity and expertise.

The main recommendation is that there is a considerable gap of knowledge between what stakeholders know and actual state of affairs – this needs to be addressed. There is no national biotechnology strategy – this needs to be formulated. Legislation needs - Plant Breeders Right and Seed Bills are urgently needed. Need to strengthen capacity to allow implementation, monitoring and enforcing of GMO Act. Need to attach a Technical arm to the NBC. Need to boost public confidence by providing sufficient information. Regional approach - SADC should establish a concerted and integrated approach to deal with agricultural trade, including GM foods.

In terms of Biosafety – there is one Institutional Biosafety Committee – in one research Institution. The UNEP/ GEF capacity building project – supported the formulation of the National Biosafety Guidelines for Safe Development and introduction of GMOs in Mauritius prepared in 1999 (MSIRI). On the CBD – Mauritius was the first signatory to convention in 1992. It ratified the Convention in 2003. In terms of Legislation – the GMO Act 2004 is now in place – but partly proclaimed. A National Biosafety Committee has been constituted.

In the last 30 years, there has been a move from mono crop sugar cane to a diversified one. With erosion of preferential treatment under sugar protocol, change in policies resulting in Sugar Sector Strategic Plan to increase competitiveness and promoting diversification within sugar. Non-Sugar Sector Strategic Plan to increase food crop production locally. With increase in diversification, Mauritius is no longer a major food crops importer. Tomato and potato production has remained almost constant over the last 10 years. Maize production has dropped since 1993 – due to high cost of production locally. Mauritius is classified as a net food importer. Food imports have increased steadily over last 10 years - accounted by increase in number of tourists and a more diversified and sophisticated demand from Mauritians. Major agricultural imports are cereals and staples - rice, wheat - from Australia, France, Pakistan, India, China. Maize import primarily for poultry and livestock production – the majority imported from Argentina. Also a major milk and dairy importer- from Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Main agricultural export is sugar accounting for 90% of total agricultural exports. In last 5 years, a dramatic increase in exports of fish and fish preparations recorded - destined for EU and the Soviet Union.

Food aid received reached a peak of 64 000 T in early 1980s (wheat, cereals and rice) – received under aegis of World Food Programme. Countries sending food aid: UK, France, USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Austria, Netherlands, Ireland, Greece, Turkey and Switzerland. Food aid drastically reduced to almost nil in mid 1990s.

In conclusion, Mauritius does not suffer from chronic food insecurity at present - therefore potential benefit of agri-biotechnology in ensuring food security is not pertinent locally. It is highly probable that GM foods and feed are imported - therefore proper risk assessments to be carried out to ensure that Mauritian consumers have possibility to make an informed choice. Mauritius has progressed in setting up a biosafety framework, by enacting a GM legislation. This must be fully proclaimed and the various components of the regulatory system put in place to ensure full benefits to be derived from GMOs and GM products.

Contract farming in Sub-Saharan Africa: Analysis of Contract Farming in South Africa, Malawi and Zambia

The main objectives of the project are to: examine potential of contract farming as an institution to promote commercialization of smallholders in SADC region; to link small-scale farmers with the private sector; to exploit potential of agro-processing sector to expand smallholder supply of raw commodities; to precipitate policy-action; promote long term sustainable (commercial) supply partnerships; reduce the danger of smallholder exclusion in modern supply chains.

For purposes of the project, contract farming is defined as some form of contractual arrangement between a group of small-scale farmers and an agribusiness partner. It may be short term or long term, formal or informal. It encompasses a wide range of structures and is different in developed countries.

The background to the study is that there is a longer history of smallholder development projects in Malawi and Zambia - different historical legacies. However there are common denominators in both countries. There is lack of policy with respect to contract farming and Agribusiness reluctance because of the high transaction cost involved.

An Overview of Contract Farming in South Africa, Malawi and Zambia – contract farming (sometimes referred to as out-grower schemes) is being used for a wide range of raw commodities. In South Africa there is a long history of smallholder supply in sugarcane, timber, tea, cotton sectors (67 500 smallholders). In Malawi and Zambia the long out-grower history is in reference to tobacco, sugarcane, paprika, cotton, coffee, tea: between 60000-120000 smallholders in Malawi and between 6000- 227000 in Zambia. Contract farming is now emerging in the supply of high quality fruit and vegetables to retailers

The potential of agribusiness to promote smallholder contracting is based on mostly South African data. 2228 agro-processing companies are involved in manufacture, retailing of food and beverage products. 240 000 small-scale farmers (mostly in former traditional areas) supply 31 raw commodity supply chains. Concrete plans and/ or projects exist in 24 out of the 31 supply chain sectors. Small-scale farmers produce less than 10% of raw commodities procured. In fruit and vegetable production small-scale growers supply 3.6 % of procurement. If smallholder supply of just fruit and vegetable expanded to 10% an estimated 11 000 new farmers would be created. Smallholder production of sugarcane, timber, cotton is significant and there strategic plans for expansion. Similarly expansion is targeted in the other 31 raw commodity sectors.

The Issues and Constraints - Raw commodities are barriers of entry into contract farming. There are both general, as well as specific barriers for the different raw commodities. Historical legacies like unequal access and skewed power relationships impact on trust. Regulatory issues include: no specific policy governing contract farming, poor land tenure systems and property rights, framework for contract enforcement-legal environment.

The Complex Nature of Supply – is also a barrier because smallholders will have to operate in a wide range of structures. These include formal and informal arrangements (handshake deals), dealing with agents, cooperatives, and intermediaries. There heavy reliance on trust, and reliability. Raw commodity supply is moving away from the open market (International trend + Africa).

As a way forward, there is need for common vision for contract farming. There is need to convince governments that this represents a win-win opportunity. There is need to identify and ensure coordination of the key players. Meetings and workshops to finalize common vision are essential. Agribusiness companies must become first line initiators. Government should facilitate incremental agribusiness cost as well as provide necessary legislation. Farmers' associations, input suppliers, research organizations should work together to promote cost effective linkages

Policy Conclusions for the Marketing and Trade Session

PRICING - Trade is triggered by prices differentials reflecting market conditions. Member states should invest in demand driven market information generation, dissemination and utilization to facilitate decision making by all stakeholders

GMO AND FOOD SECURITY - Importation of GM maize is prohibited in all countries except in Mauritius where it is used as animal feed and in exceptional cases if milled. GM free certification is demanded before importation by most countries. Capacity to monitor and regulate GM technology differs among countries. There is need to harmonise and coordinate GM legislation and regulations at regional level.

ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR - The private sector has an important role to ensure food security. Governments should: create opportunities for private sector maize trading; make import requirements small- scale trader friendly & facilitate linkages with financial institutions; and support small-scale farmers to take advantage of market opportunities. There is mistrust between Government and private sector on maize trading. There should be regular dialogue and communication between traders and government; government should give clear, accurate transparent & timely signals on demand for food & inputs; private sector profit motives should not compromise government objectives.

REGIONAL TRADE & FOOD SECURITY - There is overwhelming evidence that formal & informal regional trade has alleviated food insecurity. Trading in neighboring countries' currencies as legal tender should be formalised and expanded; SADC Governments should coordinate & harmonise legislative & regulatory framework for trade in food commodities and inputs; and all food transactions should VAT & duty free.

STORAGE AND FOOD SECURITY - Storage is a very important aspect of food security, but only South Africa has accorded it high priority. Storage should be encourages at household and community levels and not just in big silos. Countries should share information on practical household/ community level food storage technologies.

SECTION 3

THE IMPACT OF HIV and AIDS ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in Lesotho: *By Thope Matobo, Makhala Khoeli, and Regina Mpemi - University of Lesotho*

Preliminary findings on changes in family size and composition indicated that indeed HIV & AIDS infection reduces family size. The household structure changes leaving the young and the old looking after the household. More dependant orphans still at primary and early secondary were left behind. 20-29 and 30-39 age groups countrywide were more vulnerable with 62.4% married. 55.2% of the respondents reported living with HIV; 38% of the households reported someone in the household had died of AIDS related diseases. Among the PLWA's, 48% were males and 52% females; 79% of the ill

stayed at home during their illness which meant more caring which was provided by the women

In terms of the impact of HIV and AIDS on household labour - household labour for agricultural production and food security was adversely affected. 26% of respondents used hired labour, 11% hired it for agricultural activities. 14.8% saw hired labour as eroding the household budget. Community expectations of reciprocity hinder exploitation of traditional work because households and individuals affected are unable to reciprocate the support provided by other community members.

The HIV and AIDS Effects on Agriculture - reduction of productive labour adversely affects agricultural production; household farming decisions regarding agricultural production were also affected; crop yields and livestock numbers declined during and after illness since they were sold to cover medical and hospitalisation costs. Some livestock got lost to thieves. Some household assets got sold to meet the costs of caring and others got stolen.

Safety nets and social capital - Social safety nets were used by HIV affected households. Informal safety nets were more exploitable than formal ones. But formal ones tended to be more trusted for lack of stigmatisation. 51% of respondents reported to be non-members of the HIV & AIDS support groups though they were aware of their existence.

Affected HH responses to HIV & AIDS – caring for the sick negatively affects agricultural production and food security by taking away required time and financial resources; households provided for their own members at all times. During illness, they depended more on donations and gifts to supplement their own supplies.

In terms of household consumption and expenditure - expenditure on agricultural inputs for crop and animal production generally decreased during illness of HIV-infected member especially in the case of breadwinners; most households that had no arable land had to purchase their food supplies and they spent money on basic foodstuffs which were not necessarily nutritious; 49% of the respondents spent money on informal burial associations. For most of households more money was spent on medication and hospitalisation, than basic foodstuffs and other direct consumption. Spending on investment was minimal among those households that could still afford. Others were poor and spent very little on education and none on savings and long-term investments.

In terms of household food and nutrition security – the factors that contributed towards household food insecurity included: low educational levels of members; high unemployment rate; illness and death of breadwinners; and low unsustainable agricultural production. Food security is a general problem in Lesotho and not only for households that were studied. However HIV and AIDS worsened their situation. There was very little nutritious food variety taken, which left household members vulnerable to infection by other diseases and those infected with less resistance; females sacrificed food for other household members especially the HIV-infected members.

In conclusion - HIV and AIDS affected agricultural production by: -diverting household income into caring for the HIV infected members; removing the active labour force; and increasing the burden of orphans care on their old guardians. Food resources get depleted in the performance of burial rituals and rites of passage and hence increased food insecurity. A follow-up of the studied households over a longer period and a survey with a larger sample are recommended. The Lesotho Government has assisted school-going children through school feeding programme and Free Primary Education. These efforts should continue to ensure that the
feeding is of quality nutrition..

Main policy implications for Lesotho include: improvements and introduction of new labour saving agricultural technology, eradication of famine and poverty; empowering women and redressing gender inequality and supervision and education of communities by extension farm workers, strengthening household coping capacity and strengthening of outreach programmes.

The impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and Food Security in Swaziland: *By Dr Micah Masaku – University of Swaziland*

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the majority of people in Swaziland. About 70% of the population live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods from agriculture. HIV/ AIDS poses a developmental problem and it challenges long- term strategy for poverty reduction and food security in the country. These challenges include the depletion of human capital, diversion of resources from agriculture, loss of farm and non-farm income together impacts negatively on agricultural productivity. The combined effect of these factors is lack of food and inaccessibility to food. The Swaziland study used three HIV and AIDS proxies: Morbidity – referring to households with chronically ill members; Mortality – referring to households with dead members; and "Hybrid" – to households with both dead and/ or chronically ill members. For purposes of the study a household was described as a family that eats from the same pot.

Households with chronically ill members – In this study respondents were asked if there were any household members with symptoms of HIV/AIDS related diseases. The results show that, about three-fifth of the respondents did not have members with HIV/AIDS related diseases, whilst two-fifth was affected. The most affected households by having a sick member were from Shiselweni (47.1%), Manzini (42.4%) and Lubombo (42.4%) regions, whilst the Lubombo and the Hhohho regions were the least affected. The results reveal that 77% of the respondents had lost a family member as a result of HIV/AIDS related illnesses. A comparison of the affected households by regions indicate that the Shiselweni region had the highest (29%) households who lost their family members due to HIV/AIDS followed by the Hhohho and the Manzini region. Households with chronically ill members between 18 and 59 years - Analysing the study using the mortality and morbidity indicators for HIV/AIDS, the results indicate that on average, about 49 percent of the sampled households had their members between 18 and 59 years of age in the country's four regions died of HIV/AIDS related sicknesses and about 29 percent are suffering from the same sicknesses. The hybrid indicator for HIV/AIDS shows that about 66 percent of the households have their members between 18 and 59 years of age suffering from or died of HIV/AIDS related sicknesses.

Analysed by regions it shows that Lubombo is leading with about 68 percent of its Households with an adult member sick or died of HIV/AIDS related diseases, while Hhohho follows with about 66 percent. Meanwhile the Manzini and Shiselweni regions have about 65 percent and 63 percent of their members suffering from or died of HIV/AIDS related sicknesses respectively. However analysing by regions using the mortality proxy for HIV/AIDS it turns out that Hhohho has the highest number of households with members living with HIV/AIDS related sickness of about 52 percent. Following close are the Lubombo and Manzini regions with about 51 percent and 50 percent of its households having sick members of the same illnesses. In a nutshell one is persuaded to conclude that the Lubombo region is the most affected by the epidemic if the results of the study are anything to go by. These therefore suffice to explain why this region is rated the poorest in the country and with so many orphans. The results are contrary to the Sentinel Surveillance Report (2005), which indicates that Manzini is leading in HIV/AIDS cases. This may be explained by the fact that this study is dealing with households, while the Sentinel Surveillance reports is dealing with pregnant women.

The impact on agric production is reflected in reduction in land utilization, loss in agricultural assets and livestock, reduction in food and crop production, decline in agric inputs, and change in labor time allocated to agriculture activities. Effects of HIV and AIDS on land utilization and accessibility - In households with an adult member, particularly a male died of HIV/AIDS related sicknesses there is a reduction in area under cultivation. Moreover, households who lost male members have difficulty in acquiring land in the rural area where farming is important. The impact of HIV/AIDS on the total land utilization was examined by first looking at how many of the households whose members are sick or died of HIV/AIDS and were living on farm, reported a change in their land utilization. Secondly changes in land used during illness and after a family member of the household has died were compared. The change in land utilization was measured for the affected households by the percentage change in land utilised.

About 70% of the respondents stated that land utilization is affected by the illness and death of a family member. About 50% of the respondents indicated that HIV/AIDS has a big negative impact on land utilizationThe results indicate that, whilst a number of the affected households had the infected member living on farm, few of them reported a decline in land utilization. This study shows that in the Lubombo region 63 percent of the households with members infected with HIV/AIDS related illnesses, such members were living on the farm, but only 25 percent of them experienced a fall in land utilisation. In the other regions the study indicates that about 7 percent of the affected households realized a decline in land utilization. However, by bringing further information into play it has been observed that most households with male members with HIV/AIDS related symptoms and lived on farm were indicated a change in their land utilization. For example more than 50 percent of those in the Lubombo region have reported a change in their land utilization.

This study confirms that there is a serious impact of HIV/AIDS on a range of land issues in Swaziland. The direct impact of HIV/AIDS is not only on productivity of the infected members, but also diverts income that could be used for agricultural activities to medical and funeral expenses. In households with members infected with HIV/AIDS related diseases, agricultural labour is also diverted from agricultural activities to take care for the sick. The combined effects of these would be a decline in agricultural land utilization. Because the disease in Swaziland normally affects young adults, especially those in the most economically productive phases of their lives and on whom younger and older generations depend, the epidemic has the potential of destabilizing the household's ability to maintain the land previously used for cultivation. This has in most cases resulted in land being left fallow or abandoned.

On average the affected households have about 43 percent less on total arable land at homestead utilised and about 30 percent less of total arable land under dry-land cultivation utilised. The results of the study also show that the Lubombo region is the most affected followed by Shiselweni. This is in line with the observation that the Lubombo region is leading with households with members infected with HIV/AIDS related diseases. It is also noted that the majority of households in this region live primarily on farming which is another strong reason for the observed decline in land utilization in these regions as active adults fall sick or died. The study further revealed that households with HIV/AIDS infected members living on farm and reported a change in land utilization. In the Lubombo region, 81 percent of the households indicated that the impact of HIV/AIDS related illness and deaths on their ability to utilise arable land was big, whilst in the Shiselweni region were about 66 percent.

There is a gender element to the impact of HIV/AIDS on household's ability to access or use land in Swaziland. The access of land by a household depends on the presence of the male adult in which case if the husband dies and lives behind the wife, the ability of that household to access and retain land becomes uncertain if there is no male child in

the household. In addition land utilization declines in households headed by female than men because they are unable to cope with some of the agricultural activities such as land clearing, ploughing where hiring of labour and tractors is not affordable. The results illustrate that in households with sick or dead adult male, there is less hectares of accessible and arable land compares to households headed by adult male. Acquiring additional land not previously utilised proved to be an easy task for households headed by men than those headed by women. Women-headed households in Swaziland risk having their husbands' land confiscated by the husband family, as women do not have the right to inherit land in the rural areas. Sometimes they also lose rights to land use. Forced removal of widows from land and property grabbing by her in-laws, which is common in Swaziland, is also an aggravating factor to poverty, which further increases the exposure to the risk of HIV/AIDS.

Gender indifferences also prevail in decision making regarding land utilization in Swaziland. Decision-making on land is the prerogative of the household male members. Although the woman is consulted for her opinion, the final decision lies with the man. Decision making on land issues is only transferred to the woman after her husband dies. The result of women playing a secondary role in decision-making regarding land while the husband is still alive has far reaching implications regarding the change in land utilization when the man has died. When the woman assumes the responsibility of being the head with all decisions making bestowed on her, she may find it difficult to cope because of interference from relatives on land issues after the husband dies. This could have a negative impact on land utilization, as the relatives could make decisions against usage of some of the land.

The study shows that the Lubombo region is leading with about 63 percent of its households living on farm with active adults sick or died of related sickness reporting a change in land access decision-making. The Shiselweni region is the second region with about 50 percent of its affected households reporting a change in land access decision-making. The Manzini and Hhohho regions have about 47 percent and 45 percent of its affected households reporting a change in land access decision-making respectively. It could be ascertained from the study that land access decision-making in the country has a tendency to shift from husband to wife then to son or from father to mother then to son. The study also shows that once the head of the household, who in this study is the husband or father (male) died, land access decision-making becomes the responsibility of the wife or mother (female) that often lacks knowledge on how to deal with some land issues. Given that land preparation for cultivation is a heavy task which fall entirely on men, it is within expectation that land utilization will decline as the head fall sick or died of HIV/AIDS related illness. This clearly illustrates the gender aspects of a household that has lost an adult household member. The situation is even worse if the mother or the wife who had assumed the responsibility of being the head becomes sick or dies since the son might be still lacking knowledge of farming or less interested in farming at all. The decline in land utilised manifest to a reduction in agricultural production in the country.

Effects of HIV and AIDS on agricultural assets and livestock - It could be ascertained from the study's results that cattle are the mostly affected livestock, as it constitutes a large number of livestock in Swaziland. Poultry is also the most affected livestock, possibly because of its less complication to sell. These results are in line with the observation that a majority of the affected household members have/had distinct contribution in the upkeep of livestock either financially, knowledge, and experience or through work. When the male died, the remaining household members may lack skills, physical strength and financial backing to maintain livestock management and production. Again it has been observed that decision making with respect to the type, variety, number and selling of livestock shift from the head (husband or father) to wife or mother and then son or sometime brother to husband. The decline in livestock is therefore expected in women or child-headed households because of lacking knowledge

on decision-making as in most households they are sidelined in decision-making whilst the male is still alive.

Yields from food and crop production declined because of a decrease in land allocated to crop production, decline in application of agricultural inputs, less time allocated to agricultural activities and reduction in knowledge to manage crops. In terms of maize production the results indicate that generally there is a decrease in maize production after the death of a family member, who was the main source of income. The most affected region with respect to maize production was the Lubombo region followed by the Manzini region. It is worth noting that the Lubombo region is also the most hit by drought, and hence the decrease in maize production could be the combined effect of HIV/AIDS and drought. There was a 44% decline in maize production in the Lubombo region and 22% in the Shiselweni region.

However, the reduction in crop production amongst the affected households may not necessary be linked to the impact of HIV/AIDS given the persistent drought over the past years in the country, particularly in the Lubombo region. Given the dualistic agricultural practices in the rural areas with subsistence farming stronger than commercial, once households are affected they may switch from commercial to subsistence farming. This result in fewer crops sold to generate income for the households, hence less food security. The effect of HIV/AIDS on affected households living on commercial farming would be a reduction in cash crop as they switch from more demanding commercial farming to less demanding subsistence farming. It is noted that, although there was a decline in the production of other crops, there was an increase in the production of beans, especially in the Lubombo and Manzini regions. This could be attributed to the intervention programmes, which encourage the use legumes for their protein nutritional value, in coping with HIV/AIDS related illnesses.

Effects of HIV and AIDS on agricultural inputs use - Despite the minimal decline in the use of agricultural inputs, it is observed that there was a negative impact of HIV/AIDS on the use of inputs. This means that expenditure on agricultural inputs decreased in all the regions. This implies that there is less use of agricultural inputs, and hence there is food insecurity. Effects of HIV and AIDS on land allocation to crop production - Households with infected members particularly male realize a changed in land allocation among crops. The results show that land allocated to maize production and to other crops decline except for soybean in households with members affected by HIV/AIDS related diseases. The results therefore explain why the decline in the production crops such as maize, groundnuts etc. and an increase in soybean production as previously. The HIV/AIDS impact on household food security -While natural disaster was the reason for food insecurity during the past years, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has since emerged as the most significant aspect of and reason for the crisis in the country. Generally there was an increase in income from crops and livestock. This could be a result of households selling to get income for taking care of the sick and pay medical bills.

Whilst on average there has been an increase in income from the different sources this increase is very insignificant except for the Manzini region, which recorded a 59 percent increase in income from livestock production. This implies that a lot of livestock was sold in this region to gain income. Such income becomes useful in taking care of the sick person in the household.In the Shiselweni region a 5 percent decline in income from crop production was realized. The Lubombo region registered a decline in income of 4 percent and 5 percent fall in income from other off-farm agricultural and other on-farm non-agricultural practices respectively. Households with an infected or dead member change their expenditure pattern by channeling income to non-food items such as health care, transportation and funerals. This will compromise agricultural production, as less income is used to purchase agricultural inputs and other agricultural equipments. There was reduced expenditures on most agricultural inputs

in Swaziland due to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS. The most affected agricultural input is crop inputs purchasing in the Lubombo region, which fell by 35 percent. The results are in line with expectations as reduced expenditure on agricultural items was observed in all the regions except for Hhohho. Meanwhile expenditure on medical bill and funerals in particular has gone up. The Lubombo region observed an average increase of E1765.18 and E2095.44 in medical bill and funeral costs respectively. The Shiselweni region incurred an average increase of E1109.12 in medical bill and E1767.17 in funeral expenses. The reduced incomes coupled with an increase in expenditure on non-food and non-agricultural items result in less economic access to food.

The impact of HIV and AIDS on agricultural labour - As a result of households having an active adult male infected with or died of HIV/AIDS related diseases the responsibilities of performing agricultural activities fall entirely on female adult or children and on inexperienced male children. The death of a male head of household may mean the loss of the worker responsible for more demanding agricultural activities and farm management. The results show that the Lubombo region has the highest number of households who involve female and children in land clearing, planting, weeding, shelling and purchasing of inputs when the male household head is sick or death. The study further ascertain if the infected member had a distinct knowledge on agriculture and whether this knowledge has been transferred to surviving members who are expected to make use of this knowledge during production. The study shows that women and children in Swaziland become involved in agricultural activities previously done by male like land clearing, planting and purchasing of inputs when male members fall sick or died of HIV/AIDS. The study also indicates that about 33 percent of the households with infected members had distinct knowledge of agriculture. Out of these 67 percent were able to transfer the knowledge to the surviving members, and about 63 percent were able to make use this knowledge.

Strategies for mitigating and coping with the impact of HIV and AIDS - In response to the impact of HIV/AIDS, households have adopted different coping strategies to keep life going. As a results of labour shortage, affected communities and households adopted coping strategies that included: increasing children's involvement in agricultural activities; exchanging labour with neighbours and relatives; shifting to less labour-intensive mono-cropping; reducing the areas under crops; using in-kind payments for labour; and working longer hours, Traditional mourning periods have been reduced, from between five and seven days to between three. During funerals, some households resorted to preparing the grave for burial a day before the funeral because of shortage of labour. In response to reduced per capita income, many families resorted to distress sales of household assets and livestock, dependency on forest resources increased. More women's and youth groups were established for group income-generating activities.

The study concluded that the most affected component of agriculture was livestock, where, as a result of the pandemic households had resorted to sale their livestock as a means of sustenance and to pay for medical and funeral bills. Crop production had diminished as a result of the fall in land utilization, unaffordable inputs, household labour diverted to caring for the sick, and skilled people dying or falling sick, living behind people with limited skills on how to manage crop production. The high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the Swaziland undermines government's effort to alleviate poverty, which in turn, makes people and households even more vulnerable to the pandemic. The death of a household member results in losses of finances that households used to get from wages and remittances from those members of the household who were in gainful employment before the household was hit by HIV/AIDS of household heads and remittances from employed members of the household. In order to get the required financial resources, households resort to selling of their physical assets such as household assets and livestock. Most of this money is spent in paying medical bills and caring for the ill members and also to cater for post death expenses,

e.g. funeral and cleansing. Financially challenged household members also ask relatives and friends to assist, as the social capital from the nuclear family fails to cope. The natural capital is also under attack as households fail to utilize all their arable land and reduce acreage under cultivation.

Policy implications - in response to the pandemic and its consequences there is urgent need for government and non-governmental organizations to combine their efforts to come up with a comprehensive set of policy measures. These policy measures should include direct policy, such as health policy targeted on improving the health of those already affected, whilst providing preventive health services to those not affected. Whilst Swaziland has adopted the Primary Health Care (PHC) strategy to provide preventive and promotional health services particularly in rural areas, fewer resources are channelled towards the provision of antiretroviral drugs and food, which will help to prolong the life and enhance productivity of the affected. It is also crucial to ease women's disproportionate care burden in HIV/AIDS affected households by supporting the home-based care centres, thus allowing them more time to concentrate on income-generating projects.

As part of the policy measures there should be policy interventions that would assist the affected households to maintain their agricultural production and food security, such as agricultural policy, food-aid policy and rural development policy. These policy interventions should be aimed at mitigating the negative effects of HIV/AIDS on agricultural output. For example where labour resources are affected as a result of the pandemic, training by agricultural extension staff on the introduction of less labour-intensive crops such as growing cassava instead of maize, because it has the same nutritive value. There is also a need to promote small livestock like poultry and goats as enterprises that affected households could engage in for their livelihoods.

Government should also, through its community-based programmes, revive and support labour-saving cultural practices such as communal labour to assist labour-constrained households by introducing incentive systems at the community level. Small loan facilities should be readily available to the affected households to help them purchase agricultural inputs, fertilizers or even start some businesses to sustain themselves and be monitored by agricultural extension officers. To bridge the farming knowledge gap between the affected household members and the survivors, mainly women and children, there is need for both formal and informal training to assist them cope with the situation.

To complement the above policies there is need to develop policy interventions derived from food security and rural development programmes. In pursuing these policies government in collaboration with NGOs should intensify its programme of distributing food aid by ensuring that HIV/AIDS households receive their quota. The study has clearly indicated that land rights are biased against women who as a result of the death of their husbands are not allowed to own or acquire land for agricultural production. It is therefore important for policy makers and development practitioners to support the land rights of the vulnerable people and further assist them to maintain usage of the land. Also in line with empowering women, cultural practices that expose women to vulnerability of contacting HIV/AIDS need to be considered, especially that of having women given to a brother in law without her consent when the husband passes away. The mourning period for women also needs to be reviewed to allow them to engage in productive work after the death of the husband.

The impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security in Namibia: *By Dr Ben Fuller – Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU)*

The study reviewed the mpact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic on rural agricultural producers in three regions of Namibia under three main themes: the dynamic nature of the pandemic, the differing ability to cope and the different types of interventions required. The study took advantage of NHIES in 2003/ 04 but provided control sample for comparison. This allowed for a fair large sample over three regions of Namibia with limited funds. The study areas included Kavango, Oshana and Oshikoto regions. Assistance was obtained from HIV support groups. In terms of dynamics – used both responses by affected populations and Sentinel Survey Results in the three regions. Also took a historical view of individual sites. Aside from a national decline new patterns emerge. Households merging - high rates of "other relatives" in sample were observed especially in Kavango, merging was moderate in Oshana and very low in Oshikoto

Reviewing the differing ability to cope showed three groupings based on staple crop production (millet). The analysis of coping capacity was based on whether the households were growing enough to meet their daily caloric needs? "Severe Crisis Households" - 86% out of 144 households did not grow enough for their daily caloric needs. These represented a group of households in a "Severe Crisis". 78% of these households produced less than 750 kg of millet while 11 of the households did not produce a crop. Livestock herds in this "severe group" were low: only 29 HH had cattle – 15 of these with 11 head of cattle or less. 43 households had goats – with 22 of these having below 15 goats each. "Crisis Households" – were those households that produced between 751 – 1500 kg of millet. 16% of sample (23 HH) was in this category. They were growing crops but not successfully. Livestock ownership in this sample was low - 13 households had cattle with 7 of them having less than 15 head of cattle. 14 households had goats, with 7 of them having less than 15. "Near Crisis Households" – were those households producing over 1501 kg of millet. Only 6% of sample (8 HH) was in this category. Livestock ownership in this sample was moderate – all the 8 households had cattle ranging from 6 – 40 and goats ranging from 9 – 63.

In terms of appropriate Interventions, the "**severe crisis" and "crisis" households n**eed financial assistance, transfers, BIG, HIV disability, and orphan assistance. The "**near crisis" households n**eed financial assistance – but also have the capacity to absorb impact preventative interventions like less labor-intensive crops.

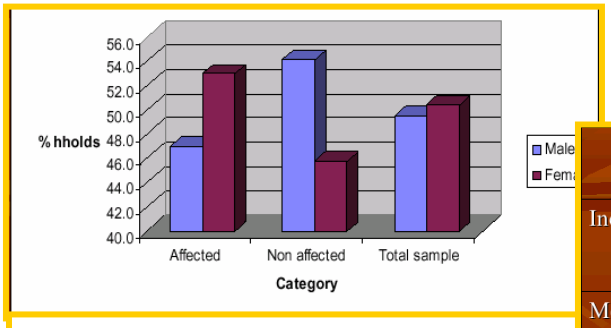
In conclusion, there is need understand more about the pace of the epidemic, more about people's responses to it, and the responses in other regions with different farming systems. There is need to integrate the survey on the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture with national surveys e.g. the NHIES.

The impact on HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security in South Africa: *By Petronella Chaminuka, Legesse K. Debusho, and Francis Anim from University of Limpopo and Simphiwe Nqangweni – University of Pretoria*

HIV and AIDS prevalence rate in South Africa amongst highest in the region. Agriculture and related industries contributes about 13% to GDP and provide livelihoods to about 40% of population. The study was conducted in Capricon District, Limpopo Province. Summary of households using the HIV and AIDS proxies: Morbidity (households with chronically ill member) 24.8%, Mortality (households with dead member) 4.6% and Hybrid (households with both) 6.5%. The non-affected households were 54.1%.

Some of the findings are shown on the charts below:

Key indicators mean	Household category		
	Not Affected	Illness	Death
Dependency ratio	0.44	0.45	0.45
Hours lost per household per day	0.34	6.24	7.13
Purchased Agricultural Inputs	R194.94	R135.28	R106.85
Labour input into agriculture	8.55 hours	7.87 hours	7.30 hours
Cultivated land area 2004	1.433 ha	1.103 ha	1.060 ha
Change in land under cultivation 2003-2004	0.025 ha	-0.173 ha	-0.446 ha
Maize produced in tonnes	0.487	0.410	0.362



Sex across categories

Average	Household category
Income of the household adult	
Medical expe per househ	
Food Expend	
Education expenditur	

HIV/AIDS impacts on off farm income

HIV/AIDS Proxy present in household	Regression coefficient	Standard error of coefficient
Illness-affected	-0.719	28.243
Death-affected	-39.070	29.681
Dependency ratio	363.488**	61.698
(Constant)	100.435**	31.191

HIV/AIDS impacts on Food Security

Explanatory variables	Regression coefficient	Standard error of coefficient
Illness-affected	-0.098**	0.033
Death-affected	-0.166**	0.035
Dependency ratio	0.252**	0.068
Wealth index	0.000	0.014
(Constant)	0.732 ***	0.035

Gender differentiated effects of chronic illness and death on cultivated land area, value of inputs and labour input

Household category	Cultivated land area (ha)	Value of purchased input (Rand)	Labour input (hours per day)
(Constant)	1.441**(0.064)	2.246**(0.028)	8.523**(0.164)
Male illness	-0.325*(0.151)	0.023 (0.068)	-0.411 (0.387)
Female illness	-0.338*(0.138)	-0.043 (0.062)	-0.697 (0.353)
Male deaths	-0.288 (0.151)	-0.174**(0.065)	-1.174**(0.386)
Female deaths	-0.178 (0.142)	-0.203**(0.063)	-0.442 (0.364)

* Significant at 5 percent ** Significant at 1 percent
NB: The numbers in parentheses are standard errors of mean.

In summary: HIV and AIDS impacts on household off farm income. There were no significant impacts on total labour input into agriculture. Changes in farm crop mix were not significant. There were some differences in input application rates. Impacts on household expenditure on food were worse in the case death. Higher medical expenditure and less education expenditure observed. There was no reduction in livelihood assets observed. Very limited participation in agricultural markets for all categories and effects on area cultivated, value of purchased inputs and labour input into agriculture varied according to gender of ill person. Some of the coping and mitigation strategies identified included: hiring of labour, seeking remittances from non-resident family members and relatives, food parcels, assistance from home based care groups and seeking government social grants

Main policy recommendations included facilitating input access schemes for smallholder households engaged in agriculture; increasing small farmer access to land, particularly irrigated land; facilitating activities of CBOs and NGOs in the area of agriculture, food security and HIV/AIDS; promoting awareness on importance of nutrition and agriculture during illness; encouraging formation of cooperatives and farmer organisations in agriculture; and encouraging increased livestock production. There is also need to develop labour saving technologies that can easily be used by women. There is need to tackle issues of HIV and AIDS hand in hand with poverty reduction strategies. There is need to encourage income generating activities off-farm in rural areas. There is need for increased raising of awareness on the need for communities to openly discuss issues of HIV and AIDS. There is need for differentiated response programmes to the pandemic because impacts vary between affected households. There is need to facilitate further investigation into differentiated impacts and a longitudinal analysis of the impact on households.

The impact on HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security in Botswana: *By K. Gobotswang, L.Gabaitiri P. Malope, P. Ntseane*

Data was collected from 190 households.103 (54.2%) households had experienced long illness during the past three years (affected). 87 (45.8%) households had no long illness during the past three years (non - affected)

Table 1: Place of residence for the sick

Place	Before illness	After illness
Village	58 (57.4)	93 (92.1)
Cattle post	2 (2.0)	1 (1.0)
Lands	9 (8.9)	0 (0.0)
Town	32 (31.7)	7 (6.9)

Table 2: Mean distribution of livestock

Study Group	Mean (SD)
Not affected	27.0 (26.7)
Before illness	35.0 (30.9)
After illness	20.0 (23.1)

Table 3: Mean distribution of crop production (70 kg bags)

Study Group	Mean (SD)
Not affected	41.0 (164.6)
Before illness	30.0 (46.0)
After illness	8.0 (13.1)

Table 4: Reasons for the crop decline

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Draught power	29	17.8%
Labor*	60	36.8%
Drought	12	7.4%
Illness*	40	24.6%
Other	22	13.5%
Total	163	100.0%

Table 5: Predictors of crop production

VAR	OR	CI	P-VALUE
Gender	3.4	1.41-8.11	0.006
HH type	0.26	0.11-0.61	0.003
Livestock	0.35	0.16-0.79	0.011
Area Cult.	0.13	0.05-0.30	0.000
Assets	0.44	0.20-0.99	0.049

Table 6: Land clearing for cultivation

Status	Before Illness	After Illness
Head*	25	11
Wife	1	11
Husband	11	1
Son	6	10
Hired labor	24	33
Nobody*	1	21

In conclusion HIV and AIDS has negatively affected both crop and livestock production in Botswana. Female-headed households are most affected. There is a significant shift in disease burden from urban to rural areas. Decision-making shifted from male heads to children and women.

The Regional Database: *By Tendayi Kureya*

The regional database was designed to manage information collected on the impact of HIV and AIDS on households from the seven country studies. National databases were compiled first. In terms of process and method – each participating country started with the same generic questionairre for collecting raw data. Each country then adapted it to suit the local context. Data was then collected from households using methods agreed at country level. Data was entered into country level databases. A structure was proposed for regional database, noting the hypotheses that the databases sought to test. A regional workshop was called to make input into the proposed structure and hypotheses. A joint regional database populating initiative was then launched.

The structure of the database was based on the original questionnaire, compared with those actually used at country level and picking out the common and relevant variables. There were differences among the various questionnaires, but common ground was possible. SPSS was chosen as the software for basic and advanced analysis. Microsoft excel was included because of its wide usage, and to serve as a platform for moving between applications. Microsoft access used as the main storage application. The data entry platform was developed in Epi info. Epi Info was also used for preliminary analysis. Epi info makes its output as web files.

A regional workshop was called in Botswana between 23-24 May 2005 to desgn indicators and hypotheses that would be tracked. This meant that the variables to be included had to, as far as possible, ensure that each of the hypotheses would be testable. Hypotheses based on the five livelihood assets – human, financial, physical, social and natural were formulated. 9 key hypotheses were agreed upon: that HIV and AIDS have led to a decline in agricultural productivity; have reduced participation in the market, have reduced the number and quality of livestock, have increased the mobility of household members; have increased degradation of the environment; have reduced household consumption; have eroded the household

Table 3: Summary of Country Level Databases

Item	Bots	Les	Nam	RSA	Swa	Zam	Zin
Database Platform	SPSS	SPSS	SPSS	Excel	SPSS	SPSS	SPS
Sample size	157	210	144	48	847	203	320
Number of Variables tracked	138	899	1422	110	184	671	126
Variables In regional database**	31	68	58	122	78	34	138

** *The regional database has a total of 158 Variables*

productive base; have eroded extension and research services; and have increased the household dependency ratios. Variables for tracking each of these hypotheses were also identified

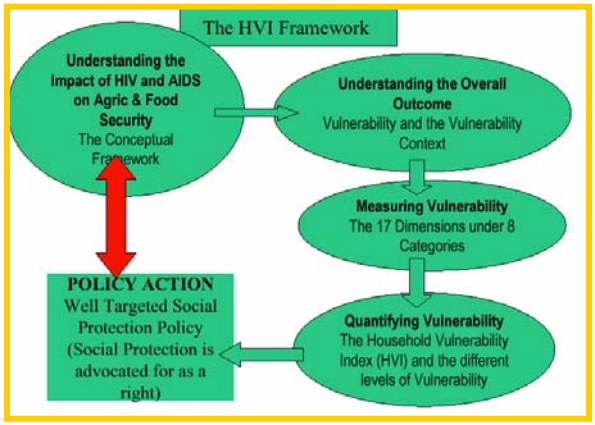
Example of variables collected: demographics

Variable description	Variable name	Whether Countries collected data						
Country	Country	NAM	BOT	ZIM	SWA	LES	RSA	ZAM
District or Region	District	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Age Of Household Head	AgeOfHeadofHH	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Sex of Household Head	SexofHeadofHH	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Family name	FamilyName	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Who is/are the head(s) of this family?	FamilyHead	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
How long has the family been in agriculture (Years)?	YearsFarming	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no
Total household size	TotalHouseholdSize	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Dependancy Ratio	Dependency	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

The regional database was developed using Epi Info 2000 that uses Microsoft Access Database. It was developed from the national level SPSS databases, mostly manually. It has 167 variables and 1930 records from 7 countries. The variables have household data on demographics, health, income, expenditure and impacts of HIV and AIDS. The integrated framework within EPI info allows for analysis and reporting.

In terms of constraints - the regional database used country level databases that were not speaking to each other well. The survey questionnaires carried too much detail. Some data from the country level was dirty. The construction of the database was slow because of input from a number of stakeholders. The sample sizes used at the country level differed. Not all the countries submitted their data in time. Not all the countries attended the workshops set up by FARNPAN to harmonise the data. Analysis was subject to errors in the data provided, and any other errors that may have resulted during data manupilation

Quantifying vulnerability: The Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) and Social Protection Policy: *By Fred Kalibwani – FANRPAN*



The impact of HIV and AIDS on households is based on three sets of circumstances: Chronic illness; death and support of orphans. Depending on the existing level of food security in the household, chronic illness can mean spending is switched from other household needs to healthcare or that assets are sold to raise extra cash. It takes time for the full impact of the death of a household member to become apparent, as the household may be undergoing significant transformation at the point of study. The research on the impact of death can often simplify the situation by focusing on changes that occur in a limited range of household activities before and after a death, and not considering the overall results for the food security of the household. In terms of the impact of supporting orphans – again in this context, there is a tendency to simplify the likely outcome by suggesting that taking in orphans adds to the burden of the household, with the limited income being stretched by having to support an additional dependent. In reality there can be a wide variety of outcomes depending on both the status of the orphan and the status of the host family.

The overall impact on households is on the livelihoods and the main outcome is increased household vulnerability. Two sets of factors external to the household but which exert a significant influence on their livelihoods are the "processes and structures" and the "vulnerability context". Vulnerability is often described as having two components: "external vulnerability", which refers to exposure to shocks or

hazards; and "internal vulnerability", which refers to the capacity to cope with or withstand those shocks. The use of "vulnerability" as an absolute status – for example by simply describing chronically ill or female- headed households or orphans as vulnerable groups should be avoided. It should especially not be used synonymously with need, as it should reflect the likelihood of a particular outcome arising for that group in the future.

The Household Vulnerability Index (HVI) is calculated to establish the different levels of vulnerability that the impact of HIV/ AIDS on agriculture and food security has introduced in households. The different Household Vulnerability Indices (HVI) reflect different degrees of vulnerability. Three levels of vulnerabilityare of special importance for social protection policy programme design: Vulnerability level 1 = Coping level Households (CLH) – a household in a vulnerable situation but still able to cope; Vulnerability level 2 = Acute level households (ALH) – a household that has been hit so had that it badly needs assistance to the degree of an acute health care unit in a hospital - with some rapid- response type of assistance the family may be resuscitated; Vulnerability level 3 = Emergency level Households (ELH) – the equivalent of an intensive care situation – almost a point of no return – but could be resuscitated only with the best possible expertise.

The different dimensions of the HVI cut across the 5 livelihood assets - human, financial, physical, social and natural assets. The HVI is a compounded index that takes into account the impacts of HIV and AIDS across the pentagon of assets.

A. Human Capital Dimensions

1. Changes in family labour size dependency ratio (family size and composition).
2. Mobility of household members
3. Changes in Household Demographic structure

B. Financial Capital Dimensions

4. Changes in household expenditure mix
5. Changes in investment choices (investment expenditure
6. Impact on household productive assets
7. Accessibility to food
8. Impact on household food and nutrition security

C. Social Capital Dimensions

9. Support networks

D. Physical Capital Dimensions

10. Impact on household Market Access, income and expenditure patterns
11. Changes in the capital asset base (capital stocks)
12. Impact on household productive assets

E. Natural Capital Dimensions

13. Environmental degradation

F. Gender Dimensions

14. The implication on gender cut across the various dimensions in different degrees.

G. Production systems

15. Changes in optimal farm-household production systems and decisions
16. Impact on agricultural extension services

H. Consumption Patterns

17. Utilization of Food

The HVI is calculated using a model developed in a spreadsheet application. The model computes the sum of the weighted vulnerabilities across all dimensions to give the particular household's total vulnerability V*hhi* to HIV and AIDS, that is:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{m} X_{wj} / \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_j = Vhh_i$$

Social protection has three key elements – vulnerability, unacceptable levels of deprivation, and public action. Initially, social protection was aimed simply at "raising the consumption of the poor through publicly- provided transfers", but more recently the focus has shifted to "helping low- income households cope with income fluctuations

as well" (Morduch and Sharma 2002). Formal safety nets are often short- term in nature and are designed to re- distribute resources to poor people to reduce chronic poverty or to protect them against risks to their livelihoods e. g. risks posed by disease, loss of employment, drought, conflict, financial crises, or macroeconomic adjustment.

" Social protection" is a newer term that incorporates safety net programmes but also includes a role for "renewed state involvement", emphasizes a "longer- term development approach", includes "social assistance and insurance, and is often "advocated for as a right rather than a reactive form of relief". Social protection policy, thus, addresses not only programmes aimed at reducing the impact of shocks and coping with their aftermath, but also interventions designed to prevent shocks and destitution in the first place (IFPRI, 2004).

Policy Implications of the Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food security: From Research to action

The main policy recommendations were: to monitor the situation on regular basis; to put in place an AIDS warning system; to design appropriate agricultural technologies; to build community coping capacity; to develop a transmission system of information, including – the dissemination of information available to farmers, strengthening the awareness in the rural area and – being creative; to develop support services; to improve the targeting through quantified vulnerability data; to identify and to develop a tool for targeting different programs for different levels of family vulnerability. To avoid free food service abuse it was recommended that the communities should be involved in targeting. They should be involved in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the healthcare programmes. Different interventions should be developed for different household vulnerability levels. It was recommended that policy should pick up the equity issues as real and critical issues; it should take into consideration the drivers of HIV; expand opportunities for off- farm income generating activities; and match the level of assistance with the intensity of vulnerability. Other policy recommendations included the need to make farming more attractive; the need to complement farm income generation; the need to undertake further research studies on the impact of the pandemic in rural areas; the need to address and quantify the impact on the extension workers & teachers; the need to build capacity for women extensionists targeting women farmers; and the need to strengthen the farmer to farmer extension.

SECTION IV

STRENGTHENING INSTUTIONAL CAPACITY

Strengthening Communication for Effective Management of Trade in Farmer Organisations *By S. Vahee*

Mr. Vashee presented the communication challenges faced by Farmer Organisations (FO) in the effective management in trade. Vashee observed that there is lack of sufficient policy advice on trade issues in order to make the right judgement. There is lack of information and this affects coordination mechanisms of organisations to consider farmers positions in policy advocacy. There is need for improved connectivity and reduction in the length of time it takes to access information through modern communication channels. There is also lack of comprehensive coordinated market information systems for use by farmers: This was a challenge as farmers were constantly not getting the right market information as a result of institutions being uncoordinated in the region. There is lack of understanding by farmers on trade related issues such as trade protocols or related issues.

SACAU feels that there is need for training farmer leadership in trade issues at national and regional level. The involvement of farmers to participate in such trade forums or negotiations was identified as critical. It was thus necessary to identify people in the region and internationally with trade negotiation skills to form a regional database for use by farmer organisations. To this end, developing a regional agricultural trade information focal point – a one stop-centre for SADC trade issues - was of paramount importance.

Discussions

Issue 1: It was noted that there were difficulties in trade policy issues since there was conflict between sectors such as livestock and crop farmers. The lack of common positions compromised their ability to influence national and regional governments. It was felt that farming unions needed to come up with win-win situation in matters of trade policies.

Issue 2: The farming unions needed to know whether SACAU would be able to source for funding for regional capacity building on trade issues as these were vital for farming communities in the region.

Response: Mr. Vashee explained that SACAU had sourced funding for trade negotiations training which would commence in the beginning 2006. Participants felt that there was need to establish agricultural trade forums to allow members to share experiences and draw up advocacy initiatives. SACAU noted that some forms of trade forums existed in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The plenary felt that members needed to exercise extreme caution before establishing any new trade forums as it would not be sustainable to establish parallel forums.

The policy issues that emanated from the presentation and discussion were: the need to strengthen regional forums such as SACAU, FANRPAN and their interactions with SADC; the need for SADC member states to develop common positions on trade issues especially with relation to WTO, EU and other trading blocs; the need for SADC governments were to improve the communication systems to facilitate trade access; the need to Improve and harmonise national and regional market information systems to add value; and the need for SACAU t0 come up with a regional capacity building programme for farmer organisations to understand trade issues and to develop a database for SADC trade negotiations and capacity building institutions on trade.

Strengthening FOs engagement at regional level: Characteristics of current and potential SACAU members: By Ishmael Sunga, CEO SACAU

Mr. Sunga presented the preliminary results of a regional research study on farmer organisations. The purpose of the study was to compile databases for farmer organisations in the region. The objectives of the study conducted in collaboration with FANRPAN were to: identify main national farmer organisations; develop a profile of these organisations; understand challenges faced by farmer organisations; and assess the potential for mobilising new members for SACAU. The landscape for farmer organisations in the region has not been systematically mapped. The data discussed was based on 48 questionnaires that were analysed. SACAU had in addition received 32 more questionnaires that would further be analysed and consolidated.

Preminary findings showed that in terms of coverage - commodity associations account for 65 percent of the respondents; 8 percent were co-operatives whilst 27 percent were farming unions. In terms of characteristics of farming organisations – it was observed that there were only a few that were old and well established. Those in this category tended to be made up of large-scale commercial farmers. The majority were new, weaker in capacity and were mostly focussed on small-scale farmers. In terms of the key objectives for establishing the farmer organisations – 48 percent indicated that farmer organisations were established to provide technical skills to members; although others wanted them to become a mouthpiece for members and to protect membership interests. One main finding was farmer organisations were extremely weak at lobbying and advocacy for effective orconducive policies. Farmer Organisations were also found to be very weak at facilitating marketing. This finding generated a lot of debate. There was a general feeling that this finding may have been a design fault in the questionnaire or that the wrong people had responded to the questionnaire. There was a general feeling that FOs have made so head way in these two aspects.

In terms of Constraints and challenges faced in farmer organisations - these included poor access to inputs; high cost of production; poor access to markets, unfavourable political and economic environment and lack of technical training and extension on production. This was, however, thought contradictory as farmer organisations are initially established to provide technical skills. This finding demonstrated that most farmer organisations did not have capacity to provide their membership with technical skills. The overall findings showed that there were many farmer organisations with inadequate linkages at national and regional level. There is also a predominance of commodity associations in the region. The study also showed that there was a large pool of skilled human resources in the farming world but with little sharing of knowledge, since communication was very weak.

The main recommendation from the study was to promote a single farmer-led organisation at country level – as opposed to the plural nature of FOs that exist currently. This would reduce division among farmers and get farmers to speak with one strong voice.

Discussions

Issue 1: The discussions focussed on why HIV and AIDS had not been identified as an issue. It was pointed out that most Farmer organisations did not have HIV and AIDS mainstreaming in their projects/programmes.

Issue 2: There was a discussion on how the new or younger member organisations could be better supported since government historically supported the stronger farmer organisations. It was felt that they could lobby for government support in terms of favourable policies as long as this would not jeopardize their autonomy. Some members of the session opposed government funding to farmer organisations.

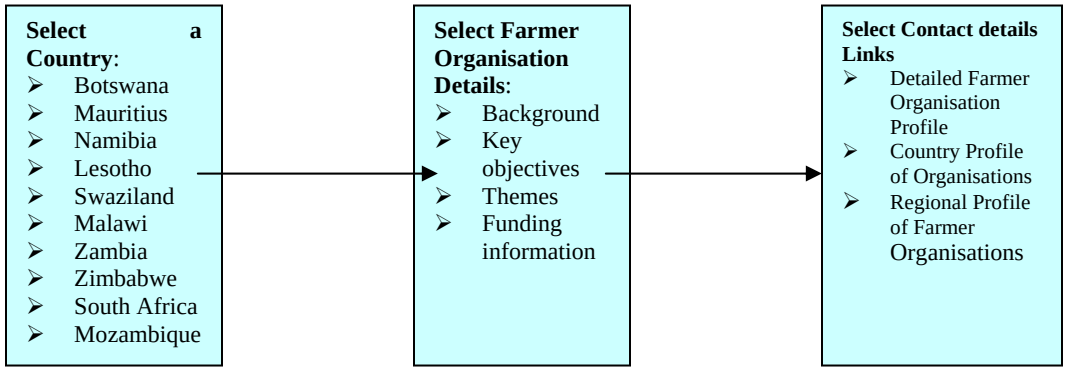
Issue 3: Over-reliance towards domestic markets by farmers in the region. This was not seen as a weakness as long as they were meeting the market requirements. The session urged SACAU to promote and market itself and program for the benefit of farmer organisations in the region.

Issue 4: Having one umbrella farmer union per country was met with strong mixed feelings as it was felt that it would appear as though farmers were being forced into one organisation. Some felt that experience had shown that there were barriers to entry by small-scale farmers into such umbrella organisations. It was agreed that since some countries had different classes of farmers with different interests, it was better to have many unions existing to avoid other farmers being forced into situations they were not comfortable in.

Policy recommendations included promoting institutional systems of confederation type similar to formalised platform that organises dialogue among farmer unions. SACAU was tasked to champion this role of ensuring that this occurs at country level.

A database of National FOs in the SADC region and a SWOT analysis: *By Thomas Mupetesi*

Various country consultants who collected the data made some brief presentations. Mr. Mupetesi presented the format of the database or directory. The database had five sections, which would allow for a selection of the SADC country desired by a user. Some of the information on the database included; key informants and links of the farmer organisations, and links to key documents related to members. The survey covered 81 percent of the targeted farmer organisations in the region. An example of Lesotho Horticultural Farmers Association (LEHOFA) was used to show how a particular association's database appeared on the web. The format was as below:



Discussion

Discussions dealt with possible gaps in the inventory. There were some farmer organisations that had been missed in the survey. It was felt that this exercise must be on-going not a one-off event for better results to be achieved. The session cautioned the financial information being posted on the internet as it may violate the trust given to FANRPAN and SACAU in this survey. The session recommended the following: restricting information to the most useful and less sensitive and avoid detailed financial information; ensuring that SACAU and FANRPAN get permission to publish any information on an organisation to avoid any further confusion in future; there is need for SACAU and FANRPAN to come up with a more creative way of maintaining the database developed so as to create interest and knowledge; the database should include other relevant civic society organisations who provide services such as NGOs to be included in the database through links; and building the capacity of farmer organisations with regards to facilitating market linkages and ensuring best practices.

Strengths	*Weaknesses*
• Membership driven FOs in terms of leadership and funding • Committed leadership • Having written constitutions to guide operations • Enabling policy environment • Available support (technical and financial) from government and donors • Functional secretariats with capable management and technical staff • Extensive networking and linkages among farmer organizations • Dealing with key crops and products – thereby having opportunity to influence policy/operating environment and increase incomes of members	• Limited financial resources and funding base/sources • Donor dependence • Poor and limited communication systems • Some of the organizations do not have offices • Inadequate human capacity at leadership and secretariat levels • Lack of skills on leadership, advocacy and lobbying • Lack of own assets • Low investment levels for the members of the farmer organization • Dependent on domestic market • Lack of adequate accounting systems
Opportunities	*Threats*
• Dealing with key crops and products in the economy • Trade liberalization leading to existence of domestic, regional and international markets • Tremendous untapped membership • Increasing Donor support to social economic development • Availability of support structures such as government research stations, extension and training institutions • Favorable policy environment supporting farmer organizations • conducive operating environment	• Poor and unstable macroeconomic climate • Trade liberalization • Changes in the government policy • Poor infrastructure (roads, hospitals, electricity and schools) • HIV/AIDS • Non payment of registration and annual subscription • Lack of adequate support from donors and government • High levels of insecurity • Poor research and extension services • Proliferation of competition among FO

On strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of farmer organizations, the study recommended the identification of key farmer organisations in each country; facilitating formation of lead or apex farmer organisation; supporting capacity building programs in policy analysis; advocacy, lobbying, skills and leadership; promoting enhanced networking and linkages among farmer organisations in the region; supporting improvement of communication (intra and external); and assisting in fundraising to support operations of lead farmer organizations.

Strengthening FANRPAN nodes and the role of civil society in regional FANR: The case of ACF in Zambia: *By Dr Athony Mwanaumo*

Dr Anthony Mwanaumo from Zambia presented a paper on strengthening FANRPAN nodded using the Zambian node as a case study. In his presentation, Dr. Mwanaumo outlined challenges that had been faced by FANRPAN node level. FANRPAN had not been able to implement effective stakeholder driven policy programs due to lack of long-term personnel at node level. In addition there was no systematic approaches at both national and regional secretariat levels. There was need to better respond to policy analysis and research needs in the SADC region. FANRPAN needed to improve the quality of policy research to be undertaken in various countries so as to have improved policy environment for smaller based agriculture.

FANRPAN has funds from USAID to strengthen nodes in Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Angola and Namibia. This was meant to transform FANRAPAN nodes into reputable country network and enhance human and institutional capacity for supporting policy formulation and implementation in the SADC region. Through a tri-partite partnership between FANRPAN; Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN); and ODI, a project to promote the use of civil society evidence in the development and implementation of sound food security policy at regional level, has been initiated. NGOs were selected to share their experiences in managing and implementing household food security. It was recommended that the FANRPAN Zambia node should be housed and supported by the Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF). A node steering committee of 6-8 people should be constituted from government, policy research institutes, private sector, and agro-based NGOs, as provided for by the constitution. A node facilitator was to be recruited and housed by the Agricultural Consultative Forum. ACF would provide an office and logistics for the national node whilst FANRPAN would provide the monthly remuneration.

The reason for selecting ACF to host the Zambia node was to create a stronger national node and dialogue platform, which is the basis for FANRPAN legitimacy. ACF has the capacity to bring together a cross-section of stakeholders including government, civil society, private sector, universities and policy analysts on a round table. ACF also has the ability to provide advisory services and has proven record of carrying out independent monitoring and evaluation of public research programs.

The reason behind placing FANRPAN node within civil society organisations is that they are grounded within communities of practice. It becomes expedient to get up to date issues and constraints that affect poor and vulnerable people whose voices may not otherwise be heard effectively in the policy process. The research process that will occur at local to regional level will begin with issues emanating and being debated at country level and cross cutting issues being dealt with at the regional level.

Strengthening FANRPAN nodes and the role of civil society in regional FANR: The case of CISANET in Malawi: *By Victor Muhoni – CEO, CISANET*

CISANET is a civil society organisation with a mission to promote agricultural development and sustainable livelihoods for the poor by influencing desirable change in policies, practices, and attitudes of government, donors, civil society and private sector through advocacy. CISANET structures consist of a board as the supreme decision-making body of the network. There are committees in charge of coordination, finance and thematic areas. FANRPAN will have a board member appointed as a focal-point person in one of the committees. CISANET has a secretariat in charge of coordination that organises dialogue meetings on various issues. The role of the secretariat is to build synergies and monitor and evaluate programs. CISANET's thematic areas of focus are marketing, irrigation, budgets, policies and livestock. The thrust is on research and policy analysis, advocacy. CISANET uses members' capacities to generate joint program implementation and enhance visibility. Issues of concern to CISANET include agenda setting in national and regional programs; managing donor agenda versus local agenda national programmes; managing the commitment of members; representation in regional advocacy forums; strong inter-country linkages and lesson sharing through mentorships; and ensuring equity and standardisation of systems so that they are more integrated.

Discussion
Issue 1: Why are we trying to change the nodes from their traditional homes?
Issue 2: Why are only five nodes being strengthened, since all the nodes are supposedly weak and dormant?
Issue 3: What was the actual reason for relocating nodded from universities to civil society organisations
Issue 4: What should be done to strengthen country nodes?
Response : FANRPAN country nodes have traditionally been located at universities but they have not performed as well as expected in some countries. In Zambia and Malawi these nodes are being relocated from universities to civil societies. Universities would still serve their roles in the nodes as policy analysts.
Response: Nodes must be located within legal entities to avoid problems in future. Extreme caution must be exercised and a cost benefit analysis carried out before shifting entirely from universities to civil society organisations, as the real issue nodes have been inactive at university level has been as a result of lack of funds.
Main recommendations included: a thoroughly review of country node activities; all country nodes in SADC need strengthening; the FANRPAN secretariat should hold workshops in each SADC country to review operations of country nodes with as a basis for strengthening them; new nodes such as Angola can benefit from look and learn tours to other nodes such as Zambia and Malawi; nodes should promote and market FANRPAN within their organisations.

ANNEX 1

FANRPAN CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS, 7 OCTOBER 2005
Creating A Conducive Policy Environment For A Food Secure SADC

The Johannesburg 2005 Policy Dialogue Engages with SADC Realities on Food Security

Preamble

The severe humanitarian crisis here demands truth and honesty from all those embroiled in the causes and consequences for our SADC community of 260 million people in the region. The triple threats of poverty, HIV & AIDS and Food Insecurity challenge governments, donors and non-public humanitarian and development agencies to respond adequately to avert prevailing hunger, disease and death across the SADC region.

Our collective efforts in agricultural and rural development have fallen short of the response and community needs, notwithstanding the effects of the droughts that frequently affect agricultural products in the region. At the heart of those failures, is our continual inability to implement appropriate policies, enable functional institutions and marshal resources in ways that optimise services, nutrition, and care for vulnerable communities.

Regional institutes and national governments are urged to take greater responsibilities for enhancing food security in SADC through the provision of a conducive policy environment. Donors, relief and development agencies have also to engage with the limitations of their often well-intentioned efforts to avert hunger.

This week, a widely representative group of over 100 regional African professionals and their development partners deliberated on the key issues, challenges and responses needed to overcome food insecurity and community vulnerability across the SADC region. Their conclusions reflect a refreshing candour on the causes of the chronic problems, the understanding needed to formulate appropriate policy responses and the actions needed to achieve sustainable impacts in institutional efforts to strengthen resilience and increase food production among rural communities of smallholder farmers in the SADC region.

The Johannesburg 2005 Regional Multi-Stakeholder Public Policy Dialogue organized by FANRPAN, from 4-7 October 2005, on the theme of "Creating a Conducive Policy Environment for a Food Secure SADC" resolved to:

Markets and Trade

- Take initiatives to facilitate more open and readily transactible trade and market development for food products and inputs in the region.
- Strengthen knowledge management on regional trade, marketing and institutional development.
- Continue to provide evidence based information on the pros and cons of GMOs in an effort to promote harmonization of biotechnology and biosafety policies
- Facilitate stakeholder dialogue at national level to facilitate formulation of policies for contract farming.

Impact of HIV and AIDS on Household Agriculture and Food Security

- Use the current FANRPAN coordinated studies as a bench mark for a regional longitudinal study on the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security.
- Develop a household vulnerability index (HVI) as a tool for quantifying the impact of HIV and AIDS on agriculture and food security as a basis for effective targeting of interventions for different levels of household vulnerability.
- Advocate for increased government involvement in the design of new and innovative HIV and AIDS related agricultural programmes and interventions.

Institutional Capacity

- Strengthen agricultural policy analysis and advocacy at regional and national levels.
- Lead initiatives and programmes to develop and empower farming organizations across the region.
- Develop and strengthen a platform for policy engagements with policy makers, analysts and private sector at national and regional levels.

The implementation of these resolutions demand that FANRPAN capacity be strengthened in terms of competency, capability and capacity.

ANNEX 2
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

LOGOS: SADC; EU; MSU; ROCKEFELLER; CTA; USAID; ODI; SARPN; SACAU; IWMI; ICRISAT; USAID; IFPRI

The "Johannesburg 2005 Regional Multi-Stakeholder Public Policy Dialogue": 5 – 7 October 2005

Theme: *"Creating a Conducive Policy Environment for a Food Secure SADC"*

Draft Programme II

Day 1

Tuesday, 4 October 2005	
1830	• Delegates arrive at Birchwood Hotel • Registration of Delegates • Cocktail Reception and Group Dinner
Wednesday, 5 October 2005	
0800 - 0830 0830 - 1030	Chairpersons and Rapporteur's Meeting SESSION 1: Official Opening Chairperson: Prof. Haidari Kanji R. Amani (Chairman of FANRPAN Board) (15 mins) Rapporteur: Dr. Dorcas Dlamini (Health Sector – South Africa), Mr. S. F. Pedro (Min – Agriculture and Rural Development) • Introductions by Prof. Haidari Kanji R. Amani (Chairman of FANRPAN Board) (15 mins) • Welcome by Department of Agriculture, South Africa (15 mins) • Keynote Address by Prof. Firmino Mucavele (CEO, NEPAD) (15 mins) • Address by Mr. I Modisaotsile MANAGER SADC/EU HIV AND AIDS PROJECT (15 Mins) • FANRPAN Highlights 2004-2005 by Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda (CEO, FANRPAN) (30 mins) • Remarks from partners (3 mins each) : SADC, Government, Farmer Organisation, Private Sector, Policy Research Institutions, Civil Society Organisations and International Partners (SADC; EU; ; FAO, French Government, MSU; ROCKEFELLER; CTA; USAID; ODI; SARPN; SACAU; IWMI; ICRISAT; USAID; IFPRI)
1030 - 1100	TEA BREAK GROUP PHOTO

<table>
<tr><td>1100 – 1300</td><td colspan="3">SESSION 2: Key Note Papers (20 mins)

Chairperson: National Department of Agriculture, South Africa
Rapporteurs: Prof. MT Weber (MSU); Dr. T. Kalinda (UNZA)

• SADC region's agricultural recovery, food security and trade policies: Making markets work for smallholder farmers in SADC. (Dr S. Mundia, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Zambia) FANRPAN-Michigan State University-Rockefeller Foundation.
• Harmonisation of Seed Policies in the SADC Region. (Mr Ed Zulu, SADC Seed Security Network) FANRPAN-SADC-ICRISAT-IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
• The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region. (Dr M. Masuku, University of Swaziland) FANRPAN-SADC-EU
• Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Supporting FANR policy development and implementation in the SADC region: Key strategies, processes and partnerships.
- Strengthening the Capacity of Farmer Organisations in the SADC region. (Mr Ajay Vashee , SACAU Board Chairman) FANRPAN-SACAU-CTA
- Strengthening SADC Civil Society Organisations' Engagement in Regional Food Security Policy Processes. (Ms S. Mbaya, Director, SARPN) FANRPAN-SARPN-ODI-USAID
• Moving from research to effective policy development and implementation: Knowledge management systems and concepts. Strategic Analysis Knowledge Support Systems (Dr P. Bartel) FANRPAN-IWMI-ICRISAT</td></tr>
<tr><td>1300 – 1400</td><td colspan="3">LUNCH</td></tr>
<tr><td>1400 – 1700</td><td>SESSION 3
Chairperson: Mr. S. Pazvakavambwa (Permanent Secretary, Agriculture – Zimbabwe)
Rapporteur: Dr. R. Jones (ICRISAT);
Dr. C. Mataya (Bunda College of Agriculture)

Theme 1: SADC region's agricultural recovery, food security and trade policies: Making markets work for smallholder farmers in SADC

Sub theme 1.1: Maize marketing and trade

Zambia

Mozambique

South Africa</td><td>SESSION 4
Chairperson: Ms. Flora Kessey (ESRF, Tanzania)
Rapporteur: Ms. Tsitsi Mkombe (Wits University);
Mr. Richard Masundire (SADC)

Theme 2: The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region

Sub theme 2..1: Generating Evidence on the Impact of HIV and AIDS
Study Methodology Reports
Botswana report
Mozambique report
Namibia report
South Africa report
Lesotho report
Zimbabwe report
Zambia report</td><td>SESSION 5
Chairperson: : Mrs Miriam Nkunika, (Agricultural Consultative Forum, Zambia)
Rapporteur: Mr. Victor Mhoni (CISANET Malawi)
Mr. Alfred Hamadziripi (SARPN)

Theme 3: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Supporting FANR policy development and implementation in the SADC region: Key strategies, processes and partnerships

Sub theme 3.1: Strengthening Farmer organisations' engagement at regional level
- Characteristics of current and potential SACAU's members. Mr Ajay Vashee
- SACAU Capacity building and empowerment of FO's
- Strengthening communication for effective engagement in trade. Mr Nelson Chisenga</td></tr>
<tr><td>1700-1730

1900 – 2100</td><td colspan="3">Chairpersons and Rapporteur's Meeting

Group Dinner
Chairperson: Prof. Haidari Kanji R. Amani (Chairman of FANRPAN Board)
IFPRI-FANRPAN Publication Launch</td></tr>
</table>

DAY TWO

Thursday, 6 October 2005			
0730 - 0800 0800 – 0930 0930 – 1000	Chairpersons and Rapporteur's Meeting Chairperson: Ms Sophia Kaduma Rapporteur: Ms Phumuzile Mdladla (FEWSNET); Mr. Mike Connolly (FAO) Report Back on Sessions 3, 4 and 5 Introduction of Sessions 6, 7 and 8,		
1000 – 1030	TEA		
1030 – 1300	SESSION 6 Chairperson: Mr. Nyangayezi Macala (Ministry of Agriculture - Botswana) Rapporteur: Mr. Les Hillowitz (Crop Life) Dr. Peter Setimela (CIMMYT) Theme 1: SADC region's agricultural recovery, food security and trade policies: Making markets work for smallholder farmers in SADC Sub theme1.2 Biosafety and Intellectual Property Rights - Plant variety protection, implications on trade Dr W. Van der Walt - Biosafety impact on trade Mr Marnus Gouse - South Africa - Malawi - Mauritius	SESSION 7 Chairperson: Mr Biziwick Mwale (National Aids Council Malawi) Rapporteur: Dr. P. Bartel (IWMI, consultant) Prof. I. Mazonde (University of Botswana) Theme 2: The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region Sub theme 2.2 Information database and our knowledge of the impact - Analysis of data to determine impact and mitigation interventions Mr Tendayi Kureya - Regional database / key indicators Mr Tendayi Kureya - Vulnerability index and social protection policies Mr Fred Kalibwani	SESSION 8 Chairperson Mr P. L. Rammutla (NAFU) Rapporteur: Mr. Philippe Dardel (FAO) Mr. David Mfote (Consultant) Theme 3: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Supporting FANR policy development and implementation in the SADC region: Key strategies, processes and partnerships Sub theme 3.2: Membership Study Inventory and SWOT analysis of farmer organisations Mr Paul Jere *Regional database of farmer organisations Mr Thomas Mupetesi*
1300 – 1400	LUNCH		

1400 – 1530 1530 – 1600	SESSION 9 Chairperson: Dr. H. Temba (National Aids Control) Rapporteur: Ms. P. Chaminuka (University of Limpopo); Mr. Goran Forssen (Swedish Cooperative Centre); Prof. Makinde (AfricaBio) Report Back on Sessions 6, 7 and 8 Introduction of Sessions 10, 11 and 12		
1600 – 1800	SESSION 10 Chairperson: Mr Higino De Marrule (Agriculture, Mozambique) Rapporteur: Alejandro Nin Pratt (IFPRI) Augustine Langyintuo (CIMMYT) Theme 1: SADC region's agricultural recovery, food security and trade policies: Making markets work for smallholder farmers in SADC Sub theme 1.3 Contract Farming - Contract Farming Dr Kurt Sartorius - South Africa - Zambia - Malawi	SESSION 11 Chairperson: Mr. G. Ndlangamandla (Agriculture, Swaziland) Rapporteur: Nyasha Madzingira (Safaids) Dr. T. Takavarasha (Consultant) Theme 2: The Impact of HIV and AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in the SADC Region Sub theme 2.3 From research to action. - Developing policies to mitigate against the impact of HIV and AIDS	SESSION 12 Chairperson: Mrs Mildred Sandi (DP Foundation) Rapporteur: Mr. T. Anim (University of Limpopo) Mr. J. Howell (ODI) Theme 3: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Supporting FANR policy development and implementation in the SADC region: Key strategies, processes and partnerships Sub theme 3.3 Strengthening FANRPAN Nodes and the role of civil society in regional FANR - Malawi, Mr Victor Mhone - Zambia, Dr Anthony Mwanaumo - Mozambique, - Angola - South Africa
1800 – 1830 1900	Chairpersons and Rapporteur's Meeting Group DINNER		

DAY THREE

Friday, 7 October 2005	
0730 - 0800 0800 – 0930	Chairpersons and Rapporteur's Meeting SESSION 14 Chairperson: Dr. S. Mundia (Permanent Secretary, Agriculture – Zambia) Rapporteur: Dr. M. Hall (USAID REDSO) Dr. M. Masuku (University of Swaziland) Report Back on Session 11, 12, 13
0930 – 1030	TEA BREAK PARTICIPANTS CHECK OUT FROM HOTEL SESSION TASK TEAMS DRAFT CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS
   1030 – 1230	SESSION 15 Chairperson: Prof. Haidari Kanji R. Amani Rapporteur: Ms. T Matobo (university of Lesotho); Ms. Asha Dookun-Saumtally (Mauritius Sugar Industry); Dr. Ben Fuller (University of Namibia) Conference resolutions

	Conference evaluation Closing Ceremony
1230	GROUP LUNCH
1400-1600	Project team AND COUNTRY NODES MEETINGS • HIV AND AIDS STUDY • BIOSAFETY STUDY • CONTRACT FARMING STUDY • STRENGTHENING FAMER ORGANISATIONS STUDY • ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE • SOUTH AFRICA, ZAMBIA AND MALAWI

ANNEX 3

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

FANRPAN Annual Regional Multi-Stakeholder Public Policy Dialogue: Creating a Conducive Policy Environment for a Food Secure SADC: 4 - 7 October 2005

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